

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR RACHEL MAY
53RD SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24th, 2020

CONTACT

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Senator Rachel May Joins Senate Majority Leader in Letter to Mitch McConnell On AIM Funding

Syracuse, NY - Senator Rachel May (D-Onondaga, Madison, Oneida) signed onto a letter to Senator Mitch McConnell urging federal action on AIM funding to state and local government.

"COVID-19 has devastated our local economies and we will continue to see these effects for a long time," **said Senator May**. "In order for state and local governments to provide the services our residents depend on, we must have funding from our federal government. I joined Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and my colleagues in sending a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging him to pass funding for local governments. We cannot make our communities whole without federal support."

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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

June 24, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

We are State Senators from New York, collectively representing well over a million residents who are suffering as a result of the United States Senate's failure to fund our state and local governments. Washington's reluctance to assist during this public health crisis has pushed New York into a desperate financial situation, and the state has taken drastic measures as a result. Specifically, the state announced yesterday that it is withholding Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) payments to 12 major cities, totaling \$74 million. This has real-world consequences for the citizens we represent, and not only will it detrimentally impact our localities' ability to fight COVID, but it will also undermine their ability to provide basic services. The time to act is now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has harmed many people across the country, but nowhere has the impact been felt more than in New York. Our state has committed tens of billions of dollars to fighting the spread of this virus and protecting our citizens, and the work must continue. Our local governments are on the frontlines, providing essential services such as emergency response, food pantries, housing and law enforcement. However, the absence of adequate funding has made this task much more difficult and threatens to undermine their fiscal health as well as their ability to carry out critical functions.

Local governments affected by these measures have advised us that the loss of funding may mean job cuts for critical employees, halting infrastructure projects and curtailing other necessary services. These are unacceptable results. Your delay is causing real hardship and the time for politics passed long ago. Do the right thing and provide our localities the funding they require and deserve. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Majority Leader

Todd Kaminsky
Senator, 9th District

Shelley Mayer
Senator, 37th District

Neil Breslin
Senator, 44th District

Rachel May
Senator, 53rd District

Tim Kennedy
Senator, 63rd District

CC: Hon. Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senate
Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor, New York State
Robert Mujica, Director, NYS Division of the Budget

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