

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2804**

July 09, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

The COVID-19 health and economic pandemic has wreaked havoc on so many American lives. We all have witnessed the thousands of lives that were claimed, the millions of workers that lost their jobs, and the state and local governments that are being forced to cut essential services because of this virus. It has been more than three months since the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136)* was signed into law, which provided desperately needed relief to our state and local governments. However, it is imperative that we continue supporting our state and local governments during this time in our country's history. The United States has surpassed 3 million coronavirus cases, and almost every state is experiencing revenue shortfalls as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Nevada, alone, is expected to have a \$1.2 billion revenue shortfall. That is why I implore you to bring up the House-passed Heroes Act for a vote on the Senate floor as soon as possible so that we can continue addressing the needs of our constituents during this crisis.

The Heroes Act would provide nearly \$1 trillion for state, local, territorial and tribal governments on the frontlines who need funds. Democratic and Republican governors, mayors, county commissioners, and local elected officials have all sent letters to Congress urging that we provide additional support to them right now. As you know, states and localities pay for teachers, police, firefighters, EMTs, and health care providers. These are the very individuals we are serving on the frontlines every day and put their lives at risk for the safety of this country during the COVID-19 crisis.

My home state of Nevada reached 28 percent unemployment, which was the highest in the nation during April 2020. What began as the COVID-19 public health crisis in early 2020 has rapidly become an economic and fiscal crisis for the State of Nevada. The speed and depth of the State's decline is staggering. During the Great Recession, Nevada lost about 180,000 jobs over nearly three years. During the COVID-19 crisis, Nevada has lost more than 250,000 jobs in the past three months.

By May 2020, Nevada's projected shortfall for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 alone was estimated at \$811 million. It is estimated that in FY 2020-21, Nevada will experience a \$1.2 billion shortfall. The State is already having to consider cutting \$125 million and \$100 million

from higher education and K-12 education, respectively. Without federal assistance, Nevada will be forced to make impossible decisions, including whether to cut funding to education or health and human service programs so desperately needed during this pandemic, or to lay off or furlough public employees who have been working hard to support the state during this challenging time, while trying to protect their health and their families. .

That is why I respectfully and urgently, ask that you to take up the Heroes Act, so that we can provide the direct and flexible relief that our states and local governments need at this very moment. This aid would preserve core government services like public health, public safety, public education and help people get back to work. It would help our states and cities come out of this crisis stronger and more resilient in the long term.

Thank you for your consideration to this request and I appreciate your diligent and committed work during this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven Horsford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Horsford" clearly distinguishable.

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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  
Nevada's Fourth Congressional District