March 28, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Mayors across the nation have been doing everything possible to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in their cities. We have heard from many of them that there are shortages of the equipment and supplies needed to protect their health care workers, first responders, other city workers and residents.

To document the magnitude of the need for vital protective equipment and supplies in cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors conducted a very brief, rapid-turnaround survey of mayors to provide a timely snapshot of unmet needs confronting city leaders across the nation today. In just a few days we received responses from 213 cities in 41 states and Puerto Rico. The survey shows that, despite their best efforts, most cities do not have and cannot obtain adequate equipment and supplies needed to protect their residents.

We are sending our survey report to you because it demonstrates that, unless the federal government does everything in its power to help us safeguard our first responders and health care workers – our first line of defense – and the millions of other public servants in our cities whose work today puts them at risk, this life-threatening crisis will continue. The three supplemental appropriations measures that have been enacted will provide us with badly needed financial assistance. We need help, however, in securing needed supplies and equipment and know that it is only the federal government, through your leadership, that can make that happen.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and mayors across the nation stand ready to work with you and your Administration on this critical effort.

Sincerely,
Bryan K. Barnett  
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI  
President

Greg Fischer  
Mayor of Louisville  
Vice President

Nan Whaley  
Mayor of Dayton  
Second Vice President

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director

cc. The Vice President  
The Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
The FEMA Administrator  
The Secretary of Health and Human Services