

CITY OF

303 EAST "B" STREET, CIVIC CENTER

ONTARIO



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May 5, 2020

The Honorable Brad Schneider
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: House Resolution 6643 – Notice of Support

Dear Congressman Schneider,

On behalf of the City of Ontario, California, I am writing to express support for your H.R. 6643, the Supporting State and Local Leaders Act. This critical legislation would make states and local governments eligible for the emergency paid leave payroll tax credits, which will help mitigate the financial impact cities are facing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

While we appreciate the expediency and urgency through which Congress and the President enacted legislation to fight the crisis, mid-sized and small units of local governments continue to be left out of most financial assistance. The Family First Coronavirus Response Act extended tools for employers to cushion the fiscal blow of providing paid leave to employees, but it unfortunately excluded public agencies from being eligible for tax credits. This legislation will resolve that issue.

As we continue to fight the current outbreak and prepare for potential future flares of the virus, it is critical that all sectors are provided similar opportunities to help maintain current levels of service and operations, which is critical to public health and safety. We hope this piece of legislation will be the catalyst to provide all local governments a comprehensive package of resources to alleviate the impacts of the crisis.

For the reasons outlined above, we support H.R. 6643 and its efforts to public agencies, specifically local governments. Furthermore, we encourage Congress and the President to include all state and local governments, regardless of size, in upcoming relief packages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul S. Leon".

Paul S. Leon
Mayor