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April 21, 2020

The Honorable U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable U.S. Senator Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Brown and Portman:

Thank you for your leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic in assuring that Ohio is not forgotten when it comes to providing the resources needed to protect our citizens, communities and businesses.

While the funding provided to state and local governments provided in the CARES Act is a great first step, I am seeing many of my members, our states first responders, being laid off, furloughed or threatened to be laid off by their respective city leaders. As you are aware many if not most of Ohio's communities rely on local income taxes. With the record unemployment numbers in Ohio this has seriously impacted the resources in our communities.

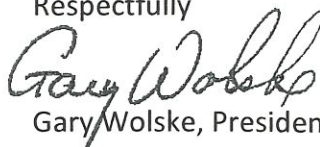
I am asking that you please consider making a bipartisan effort to reduce the restrictions on the CARES Act funds so that state and local governments can use those funds to not only pay for COVID-19 related costs, such as police overtime, but can use them to supplement their general fund to prevent our first responders from being laid off, furloughed or having their salaries reduced. Secondly, it is my hope that there is additional funding made available to state and local governments for this purpose as well.

While the COVID-19 crisis has hopefully reached it's peak and our Nation is on the road to recovery, the loss of tax revenue by our communities is not. I am fearful that this reduction in revenue will impact our communities for a very long time.

Our first responders deserve better as they have remained steadfast in their dedication to their communities and they deserve to know that when the COVID-19 crisis ends or lessens, they will not be made to suffer financially for something completely out of their control.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and again thank you for all you have done and will do for Ohio's Finest.

Respectfully


Gary Wolske, President