

25 Democratic freshman Representatives signed a letter (April 18, 2008) initiated by Rep. Walz, which requested quick action on a second stimulus package containing fiscal relief to states and localities in the form of increased federal funding for states' Medicaid programs and flexible (anti-recession grants) counter-cyclical assistance.

The 25 co-signers are below:

1. Braley (IA)
2. Clarke (NY)
3. Cohen (TN)
4. Courtney (CT)
5. Ellison (MN)
6. Foster (IL)
7. Giffords (AZ)
8. Hall (NY)
9. Hare (IL)
10. Hirono (HI)
11. Hodes (NH)
12. Johnson (GA)
13. Kagen (WI)
14. Loeb sack (IA)
15. Perlmutter (CO)
16. Sarbanes (MD)
17. Sires (NJ)
18. Shea-Porter (NH)
19. Space (OH)
20. Sutton (OH)
21. Tsongas (MA)
22. Walz (MN)
23. Welch (VT)
24. Wilson (OH)
25. Yarmuth (KY)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We applaud your effective leadership in shepherding the bipartisan economic stimulus bill through Congress in January. We also strongly agree with you that more help is needed for working families, given the severity and intractability of the economic downturn.

As a result of the economic downturn, our states, cities, counties and school districts are hurting badly. Yet it is our constituents who suffer, whether they are citizens who can no longer access important government services due to cutbacks, or government employees who are facing layoffs. Our constituents are looking to us – their first-term representatives who made a pledge to help working families achieve the American dream – to keep our promise to enact legislation to help them and their families share in our nation's prosperity and to protect them in times of insecurity.

At this critical juncture, we urge you to act quickly with a second stimulus measure. We hope you agree that a key component of this measure should be to provide fiscal relief to states in the form of both temporary increases in federal funding for states' Medicaid programs and flexible, counter-cyclical assistance. As you know, this type of fiscal relief has been tried and tested and helped pull us out of our country's last economic downturn in 2003, when Congress enacted a fiscal relief package for states with these same two elements. The only criticism of that bill was that it was not implemented fast enough to maximize its effectiveness.

Temporary fiscal relief is desperately needed again now. Most states are facing major budget deficits and have already made or are planning budget cuts that threaten vital public services, including health care, K-12 and higher education, child care, law enforcement, employment services and infrastructure projects vital to job growth. Staff layoffs are occurring or are being threatened in many programs, which will increase the already-growing ranks of the unemployed and will result in delayed or complete loss of services in these core programs.

We want to work with you in fashioning a second stimulus bill that will pull states and localities through these very difficult economic times by providing them with the federal support they need to avoid draconian cuts that will affect the most basic fabric of our local communities and our constituents' lives.

Sincerely,



Dave Lohr

John Hall

Hank Johnson

Angie's

Jalle Guffeh

John P. Sch

Ed Pettit

Zimmer

Mazie K. Herons

Joe Courtney

Niki Tangas

Yvette D. Clarke

Bruce L. Bradley

Keith Ellison

Alex Cohen

Betty Sutton

Roche

John

Carl H. Wills

Carol Shea-Power

Phil Hae

Bill Foster

Steve Kager