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ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA & GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raphael Warnock
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff and Senator Warnock:

On behalf of our respective organizations, our leadership, and our members, including Georgia's 159 counties and 537 cities and the 10.62 million residents we serve, we write today to offer our endorsement of the budget reconciliation language providing flexible aid directly to all cities and counties in our state and nation. We encourage Congress to swiftly pass this urgently needed aid.

As COVID-19 raged across the country over the past year creating a public health and economic crisis, local officials remained on the front lines providing critical services to residents and businesses, demonstrating heroic leadership during the country's worst pandemic in a century. Unfortunately, despite the pleas of local leaders throughout the country, many counties and cities were either excluded from receiving essential federal aid throughout 2020 or did not receive enough to address the crisis. ***On behalf of ACCG and GMA, we applaud efforts underway by House and Senate leadership and members of the 117th Congress, as well as the Biden Administration, to make sure that local government needs are addressed in the legislation currently under consideration.***

GMA and ACCG support swift passage of legislation that provides assistance to local governments of all sizes; that allows flexible uses of these funds to allow for revenue recovery and does not set a deadline to spend down these funds; and contains reasonable guardrails to ensure allocations do not exceed annual operating revenues. Federal funds are urgently needed to help protect the lives and livelihoods of all people in Georgia. Local leaders stand ready to put these funds into action to mitigate the public health emergency and address negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 disease in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important legislation, and please feel free to reach out to us if we can provide additional information or assist in any way.

Sincerely,

Dave Wills, Executive Director
Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Larry H. Hanson, Executive Director
Georgia Municipal Association

Cc: ACCG Board of Directors, GMA Board of Directors