

Dear Chairman Oelslager, Chairman Callender, Vice Chairman Scherer, and Ranking Member Cera:

I am writing to you all today to urge your urgent passage of Senate Bill 310 so our city can access the dollars passed in the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to cover our costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. By sending this first disbursement of \$350 million to Ohio's local governments, Kettering can begin the process of recovery from the initial hit COVID-19 took on our city.

The City of Kettering has already reduced 2020 budgeted expenditures by over \$5 million and has incurred substantial expenditures to respond to the Covid 19 pandemic and is anticipated to incur substantial (in excess of \$8 million) revenue shortfalls and had to cancel numerous discretionary programs and events and reduced normal part-time staffing by approximately 500 people.

Senate Bill 310 will begin to build the bridge to our city and our state's economic recovery by distributing much-needed federal aid to Ohio's local governments. Kettering and Ohio's other communities have been on the frontlines fighting this pandemic, experiencing steep revenue loss while the cost to provide quality local services is increasing. SB 310 will ensure cities, like ours, and counties, and townships get the immediate relief we desperately need now.

Following the passage of SB 310, we also urge you and the members of the Ohio General Assembly to ensure the remaining \$850 million is dedicated and used by Ohio's local governments. As our local budget continues to decrease, these remaining funds will play a key role in the continuing the nation's response to both the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis.

SB 310 is a key link in the continued partnership of the state and local response to the pandemic and to the economic recovery of our residents. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important piece of legislation. I urge your swift action on this bill.

Respectfully submitted.

Donald E. Patterson

Mayor, City of Kettering