



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Joyce Craig
Mayor

August 28, 2020

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President,

In anticipation of your visit to our area today, I want to share with you the impact COVID-19 is having on our community and ask you to advocate for much-needed federal funding for cities and towns.

Manchester is a proud city, with a proud history. Over centuries, we've transitioned from an era of textiles to one of technology and higher education. By working smarter, embracing new opportunities and demanding results, Queen City residents have pushed our city and our state forward. When COVID-19 hit, it took a toll on our city, much like every other community in this country. And while COVID-19 has not taken away our determination and grit, members of our community are struggling.

You have visited Manchester multiple times in the past few years, and have seen firsthand our city's innovation in addressing our challenges. But this pandemic is a challenge one community cannot solve on its own.

We are grateful for the federal funding we've received as a result of COVID-19 and our federal delegation—Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Senator Maggie Hassan, Congresswoman Annie Kuster and Congressman Chris Pappas—are working diligently to bring more funding and resources to assist Granite Staters.

While you're in the area, I ask you to show support for our community. Please commit to taking action to protect our residents and jobs, and advocate to increase federal funding for affordable housing, public education, healthcare institutions, economic recovery and direct funding to cities and towns that will help move Manchester forward through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the Queen City, vacancy rates are hovering around one percent, while evictions and rents are at an all-time high. There's an average three year waiting list to get into an affordable housing unit, and there are no federal incentives for developers to expand affordable housing. I ask you to voice support for federal incentives so communities like Manchester can build much-needed affordable housing to ensure our residents have a safe place to live.

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Very soon, our students will be going back to school. The Manchester School District has received some federal assistance, but it falls short of what is needed. Additional funding would close gaps in remote learning, provide students with mental, physical, and academic support and provide a safe school environment for educators and students when schools reopen.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit New Hampshire, small businesses, including retail, lodging, bars and restaurants, were forced to close their doors. While some have partially reopened with strict safety guidelines in place, many are grappling with how to pay their staff and maintain operations while experiencing a significant drop in revenue. While many have taken advantage of federal, state and local loan and grant programs, it's not enough. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and right now, your support for increased federal aid would help ensure our small businesses survive.

Manchester hospitals have treated about two-thirds of the Granite State residents hospitalized with COVID-19. Despite this, they have received less than ten percent of the federal aid sent directly to hospitals, while simultaneously losing tens of millions of dollars in revenues, putting them at great financial risk. I ask you to direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support a distribution formula for federal funding; ensuring the health care institutions that need it most are the recipients of federal support.

Across the country, municipalities like Manchester are managing local responses to the pandemic, and are doing everything we can to address issues surrounding affordable housing, economic development, education and more. But, without direct and flexible federal aid to municipalities, we're unable to adequately address our needs. Just as financial assistance was sent directly to states, small businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19, our cities and towns need support from our federal government to manage local responses, and help equip us with the right tools to combat this pandemic and keep residents safe.

I'm proud to lead this community, and am confident Manchester will get through this challenging time in our country's history. But right now, it's clear this pandemic has taken a toll. While you're here campaigning, I ask you to listen to the concerns of our city, understand the challenges we are facing, and most importantly, act to protect our residents, students, businesses and jobs.

I hope you have a safe and informative visit to New Hampshire.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce Craig
Mayor