



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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TOM COCHRAN

March 30, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In an emergency call last night, the Executive Committee of The United States Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted policy stating, **"We, as America's Mayors, urge the President of the United States to fully enforce the Defense Production Act - as authorized by Congress - for the purpose of increasing the production of medical supplies to help cities combat the COVID-19 pandemic."** We write to apprise you of this bipartisan position and urge you to take immediate action on behalf of America's mayors, whose cities are the front lines of our nation's battle against COVID-19.

Just two days ago we shared with you the findings of a survey we conducted last week that documented the magnitude of the need for vital protective equipment and supplies in 213 cities large and small across our nation. That survey reveals that, despite their best efforts, most cities do not have and cannot obtain adequate equipment and supplies needed to protect their health care workers, first responders, other public servants, and their residents.

Our cities and our nation need the full strength and authority of the federal government if we are going to protect our workers and save as many lives as possible. Full enforcement of the Defense Production Act must be a central component of the federal effort. It is critical to the development of a nationwide production and supply chain that can get the materials so desperately needed to our cities on a timely basis. This is why our Executive Committee adopted this policy on behalf of the full Conference and why we urge you to fully enforce the Defense Production Act immediately.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and mayors across the nation stand ready to work with you and your Administration on this critical effort.

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI
President

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

cc. The Vice President