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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

November 30, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to urge enactment during the Lame Duck Session of legislation to provide direct and flexible fiscal relief to county governments of all sizes.

Thank you for your leadership during this critical time and your efforts to address the significant health, safety and economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The relief legislation enacted so far has provided necessary assistance to public health, businesses and individuals. However, throughout this year, counties like Santa Barbara have been at ground zero of this unprecedented crisis and have been strained by increased County operations and expenditures while seeing revenues decline.

In California, counties are mandated to be the safety-net for our communities, including cities, all while managing the emergency operations center activity and continuing to provide law enforcement, detention facilities and coroner services, judicial services through the District Attorney and Public Defender, veterans' services, behavioral and public health services, social services, including sheltering of the homeless population, foster care, adoption assistance and general relief, among many other essential county functions. Given this role at the front lines of this crisis, we strongly urge you to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.

Thank you again for your assistance during these unprecedented times. As discussions over COVID-19 response legislation continue, please support the unique role of counties in our nation's public health and overall community response to this pandemic by providing direct fiscal stabilization funds as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
Washington Representative

DWG: awg