July 1, 2020

Representative Bradley Schneider
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 6643, the Supporting State and Local Leaders Act

Dear Representative Schneider:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to support H.R. 6643, the Supporting State and Local Leaders Act and thank you for introducing this legislation. Our City appreciates your work to repeal the exclusion provision in H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which prohibited state and local governments from accessing employer-based family medical and sick leave tax credits.

Since the enactment of H.R. 6201, the City of Beverly Hills has been working with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and other public sector stakeholders to ensure localities have access to tax credits aimed at mitigating the cost associated with providing paid family medical and sick leave. State and local governments pay payroll taxes for their employees, just like the private sector; therefore, local governments should not have been excluded from these tax credits. By requiring local governments to provide paid family medical and sick leave benefits, but expressly prohibiting local governments from receiving these tax credits, H.R. 6201 established a new unfunded mandate at the very time when state and local governments are experiencing significant additional costs and budget shortfalls due to the pandemic.

Our City was pleased to see your legislative provision included in H.R. 6800, the HEROES Act, as adopted by the House earlier this month. However, given the uncertain fate of the HEROES Act, our City urges you to continue to work with congressional leaders as they negotiate the parameters of the next COVID relief package to ensure this issue is resolved.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills