

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our strong support for the grant application to the Department of Homeland Security by Montgomery County, Maryland, for funding under the FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program- COVID-19 Supplemental (Opportunity ID: DHS-20-GPD-044-00-99).

While the primary goal of the AFG program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards, at its core, the program represents a critical part of the comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress to support and strengthen our national preparedness and resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented public health challenge for local governments, and firefighters must be properly equipped with the supplies they need to prevent, prepare for, and respond to this public health emergency.

Montgomery County is requesting \$357,801 in federal funds through the AFG program to secure essential personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to reduce the risk EMS providers face when treating and transporting patients with infectious diseases, such as COVID-19. The County will provide a local match of \$53,670, as required under the grant, bringing the total amount of the proposal to \$411,471.

This grant will allow Montgomery County to secure adequate supplies of PPE that will protect its emergency responders as well as patients, clinicians, and ultimately the community. We strongly support the County's application and urge you to give it full consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/  
David Trone  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

/s/  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress