

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II



FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
AND MONETARY POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN

HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE  
MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

[HTTPS://CLEAVER.HOUSE.GOV](https://cleaver.house.gov)

HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,  
AND INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

April 1, 2020

Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I write to ensure the Department of Treasury, in the implementation of the CARES Act (H.R. 748) Title VI Coronavirus Relief Fund, provides Kansas City, Missouri its appropriate support. This important provision will offer necessary relief to a city beset by the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and provide the assistance Congress intended they receive when drafting and voting on this measure.

Based on press reports, I understand there may be some confusion in the application of Title VI of the CARES Act. This provision offers rapid assistance to states and localities to meet the needs associated with the COVID-19 crisis. As drafted, the provision was intended to distinctly assist large urbanized areas, with a population density that makes these communities distinctly susceptible to the health crisis we currently face—urbanized areas such as Kansas City. The language of the bill notes that a “unit of local government” would be an area with a population that “exceeds 500,000.” As of 2018, the U.S. Census estimated that the population of Kansas City was 491,918—seven percent growth since 2010. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a public facing Census estimate for 2019, and we currently find ourselves in a census year. Recently reported data for Kansas City derived from the Mid-America Regional Council indicates that the total population is 505,604. The municipal government as well as the Regional Council would welcome the opportunity to work with Treasury and U.S. Census to verify this count to expedite the distribution of these needed funds.

As I am sure you would agree, the extreme and exigent nature of this crisis does not allow for a more protected exchange and interpretation of this provision of the CARES Act. According to most recent counts, the state of Missouri has over 1,300 cases of COVID-19 with a concentration in St. Louis and Kansas City. While I would hope this interpretation offers some clarity on both the letter and the spirit of the provision as a legislator who supported its passage, I urge you to swiftly define this question for the citizens of Kansas City in coordination with the U.S. Census and the municipal government. As the CARES Act requires a speedy exaction of these funds, I would request an expedited processing of this request.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

PLEASE REPLY TO:

2335 RAYBURN HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4535 (PHONE)  
(202) 225-4403 (FAX)

101 WEST 31ST STREET  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108  
(816) 842-4545 (PHONE)  
(816) 471-5215 (FAX)

411 WEST MAPLE AVENUE, SUITE F  
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050  
(816) 833-4545 (PHONE)  
(816) 833-2991 (FAX)

1923 MAIN STREET  
HIGGINSVILLE, MO 64037  
(660) 584-7373 (PHONE)  
(660) 584-7227 (FAX)