



# Illinois State Association of Counties

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
United States Senator  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

It has come to my attention that an amendment is being proposed for the Fire Grants and Safety Act (S. 870) by Senator Rick Scott that would require the U.S. Treasury Secretary to identify and transfer unobligated funds from the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) to the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In sum, this amendment (Amendment 81) would attempt to claw back "unobligated" state and local funding provided under ARPA. However, U.S. Treasury has already obligated nearly 100 percent of the \$65.1 billion to America's counties, parishes and boroughs.

As intergovernmental partners, counties trust the federal government to fulfill its commitments on legislation like the American Rescue Plan Act. Counties are fulfilling our own responsibilities as intergovernmental partners by complying with the law and Treasury's guidance to meet the December 31, 2024, obligation and December 31, 2026, expenditure deadlines. The Scott Amendment would undermine the intergovernmental partnership and hinder our ability to fulfill our mandated responsibilities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you oppose Amendment 81. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Joseph G. McCoy  
Executive Director