We wanted to provide an update to County Executives on recent events related to the federal efforts to help New York receive billions of dollars in federal assistance to help the state and its localities respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

1) Yesterday the House passed a bill that will provide in excess of $50 billion to help states respond to the national health emergency we are facing. Included in this package is an increase in the federal Medicaid matching rate that will direct up to $6.7 billion to New York State and its counties according to estimates from Sen. Schumer's office. The bill passed overwhelmingly in the House.

2) Increasing federal Medicaid funds, called eFMAP, has been a standard response by the federal government to quickly infuse funding to states and localities to address medical emergencies and also as a counter cyclical response to an economic downturn. Senator Schumer updated this longstanding federal policy to reflect local government and state Medicaid funding relationships as they exist today. Some version of this was done after the 9/11 attacks, during the Great Recession and carried over to the Affordable Care Act.

3) The State will receive billions of dollars in new federal funding from this proposal and counties will receive hundreds of millions of dollars.

4) The proposal also requires the State to maintain current Medicaid funding shares in order to access the enhanced federal Medicaid funds – this has been in federal law for over a decade. The Governor says he cannot pass his budget unless he can shift new costs to counties – he planned on shifting $150 million to counties according to his budget documents. The state will receive billions in new federal funds.

5) Counties and the state should recognize the great benefit this federal step will provide for the greater good of New York and the nation as we respond to this national emergency.

The Governor has raised significant concerns about the inadequacy of these federal efforts and said they are useless and the New York State congressional delegation has failed and should apologize.

He is suggesting that this bill will make it more difficult for the state to enact his proposed budget.

The Executive Budget proposal only had $150 million in the budget as a cost shift to counties, but the federal bill will provide billions in new federal aid that should help state leaders complete the budget.

Below are a series of tweets from Saturday night and news clips.

Counties support the federal efforts and want to work with the state and federal lawmakers to work through this crisis as quickly as possible.

Cuomo criticizes House coronavirus bill for low NY funding

Posted: 8:02 PM, Mar 14, 2020 Updated: 8:02 PM, Mar 14, 2020

"The way they reimburse the funds is through a dated Medicaid formula that is 80% to the state, 20% to the localities which they used from 2009 which is before the state picked up the local increase from the local governments. Why they would use a legal formula that is outdated and incorrect is bizarre."

The bill also, Gov. Cuomo claims, says that the state government cannot change the localities reimbursement rate for Medicaid.

"You know what that means? That means the state can't do a budget proposal this year."

Cuomo says he's been in touch with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) about the bill and says that he and local lawmakers are working to accelerate the budget making process.

"If they actually pass this bill as is and we can't get a state budget, I hope the federal government is going to apologize to the people of this state."

Jon Campbell
@JonCampbellGAN
Wow. Cuomo calls out Schumer and Rep. Nita Lowey by name, railing against the federal #coronavirus bill and a measure restricting him from changing the state-local Medicaid formula. "You created the problem," Cuomo said. "You fix it."

Josefa Velásquez
@J__Velasquez
Gov. Andrew Cuomo is BIG MAD over the fact that he can't pass the budget he wanted because the federal coronavirus package prevents him from shifting the cost of Medicaid to localities.

Josefa Velásquez
@J__Velasquez
NEW: NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo says that the NY delegation in Congress was "no help" in trying to get more coronavirus testing in the state.

Tom Precious
@TomPreciousALB
@NYGovCuomo
says
@SenSchumer
and Lowey: "They created the problem, let them solve it. This is not one they can blame on the President." Calls the federal bill "insanity."