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From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 3:53 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: from NJLM - Two Mayors Ltrs

LEAGUE ALERT

Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.

June 17, 2009

**Re: I S-1651/A-2238, Mandates Certain Health
 Benefits**

**Re: II Federal Stimulus Transportation Funding
 Announcement**

Re: I. S-1651/A-2238, Mandates Certain Health Benefits

SENATE VOTE TOMORROW

Dear Mayor:

Please urge your State Senator to vote "No" on S-1651/A-2238, which is scheduled for final legislative action in the Senate tomorrow. This initiative would mandate health benefits coverage for certain therapies for the treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities.

Local budget makers in 2009 struggle to serve their fellow citizens and balance their budgets in the midst of the mortgage crisis, the market crisis, the banking crisis and the unemployment crisis, while absorbing State cuts from crucial municipal revenue replacement funding and inaction on our requests for mandates relief. At this time, we should not be forced to fund any new insurance benefits.

The Office of Legislative Services has estimated that this bill could cost the State Health Benefits Program and the School Employees Health Benefits Program up to \$85.8 million, a year. Even without this new mandate, municipalities have been warned to expect SHBP premium increases in the range of 20%.

Accordingly, we urge you to contact your State Senator today. Please ask that official to vote "No" on S-1651/A-2238.

If you have any questions, please contact Jon Moran at 609-695-3481, ext. 121.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

Re: II. Federal Stimulus Transportation Funding Announcement

Dear Mayor:

Today, the Department of Transportation released two notices regarding economic recovery funds – a revised notice for the \$1.5 billion TIGER discretionary grant program and guidance on the high speed rail funding.

Also, the House Transportation Committee has announced it will release its “Blueprint Executive Summary for the Surface Transportation Authorization of 2009” at a series of briefings tomorrow.

The Department published a revised notice of funding availability for the \$1.5 billion TIGER Discretionary Grant program in today’s Federal Register (June 17). Under this program, funds will be awarded to State and local governments who submit applications for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, including highway or bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail, and port infrastructure investments. Applications for TIGER discretionary grants must be submitted by September 15, 2009, from state and local governments, including U.S. territories, tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities, MPOs and others. Today’s notice revises the interim notice published on May 18, and clarifies that the Department is no longer considering comments on the proposed selection criteria and guidance for awarding TIGER Discretionary Grants. The revised notice is the operative notice of funding availability for the TIGER Discretionary Grants program. Today’s Federal Register notice is available at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-14262.pdf>. Additional information about the program is available at: <http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/>.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director NJLM 222 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08608