

# NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

106 West State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

(609) 989-8730

FAX (609) 989-8734

[www.njafclcio.org](http://www.njafclcio.org)

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LAUREL BRENNAN  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

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June 1, 2020

Dear Members of the Assembly Budget Committee:

### **RE: Please Support A-4175 (Pintor Marin): COVID-19 Emergency Bond Act**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports A-4175 and thanks Assemblywoman Pintor Marin for her leadership on this urgent matter.

In addition to the massive human toll the pandemic has taken on our members, particularly essential workers on the front lines battling the virus, attention is now turning to the financial toll on state and local governments. At the federal level, little has been done to provide assistance directly to these local governments. For this reason, the State of New Jersey must act.

This legislation authorizes bond purchasing up to \$5 Billion and authorizes borrowing from the federal government. This is the right step to take during these unprecedented times.

Public workers in particular will be hard hit financially with layoffs if they do not begin to take steps now to address the financial stress on local governments caused by the pandemic. The Murphy Administration has issued stark warnings about mass layoffs in the public sector, and if this occurs, our local economy will suffer even more.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech  
President

Laurel Brennan  
Secretary-Treasurer

CW:LB:jd  
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