

Greetings,

My name is [_____], and I am a constituent of Mr. Cornyn. We understand Mr. Wicker of Mississippi is planning to introduce a bill to restore advance refunding bonds and I would like to encourage the Senator to co-sponsor the legislation along with him.

Use of tax-exempt advance refunding bonds has saved state and local governments billions of dollars in the past and if were to be restored, it would allow more comprehensive services, including infrastructure projects, to be completed at a lower cost. This tool would provide an opportunity for state and local governments to recover faster from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to efficiently access low interest rates to provide essential facilities and services to your constituents.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many state and local governments and other obligors of tax-exempt bonds are experiencing dire financial situations and are having difficulty paying scheduled principal and interest on their outstanding debt. It would greatly benefit such entities to be able to refinance their debt at today's interest rates that are often lower than the interest rates payable on outstanding debt, which often was issued years ago. Such issuers, including school districts and cities, would also benefit greatly by being able to defer debt service to respond to cash flow issues as a result of the pandemic. Existing debt is often backed by revenue streams that have been interrupted. For example, hospitals have seen revenues drop as elective surgeries and other procedures are cancelled. Taxes levied on hotel and restaurant businesses have dried up as hotels and restaurants have closed. Revenues related to transportation, including highway and bridge tolls and bus and train fares have been drastically reduced. At the same time, state and local taxpayers are facing unprecedented demands on dwindling economic resources and may be unable to timely pay state and local real estate and income taxes.

The National Association of Bond Lawyers has offered to provide information to you including state by state data for all advance refundings that took place between 2012-2017. In that database, you can view the exact issuers from your state who have benefited from an advance refunding during that time. If you

would like this information, do not hesitate to connect with Jessica Giroux, NABL's Director of Governmental Affairs at jgiroux@nabl.org.

I encourage you to consider cosponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Thank you.