



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2020

ARA and ANVCA Comment on Legislation to Extend CARES Act Spending Deadline

The ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) and the Alaska Native Village Corporation Association (ANVCA) issued the below statement in support of legislation to extend the spending deadline for CARES Act funding:

While Native organizations around the nation scramble to meet the December 30, 2020 spending deadline for CARES Act funds, Alaska Native corporations are still waiting to receive any funding at all. These critical funds designated for Alaska Native corporations have been repeatedly held up by a lawsuit, leaving many Alaska Native people extremely vulnerable to the health and economic impacts COVID-19 is leveling on our communities and villages.

As we await the Supreme Court's decision to hear this case, the ANCSA Regional Association and Alaska Native Village Corporation Association extend our full support to Senators Murkowski and Hassan's proposed legislation to extend the spending deadline for CARES Act funds.

Alaska Native people are facing acute difficulties combatting the virus—our villages are remote, and our winters are extreme, making it difficult for healthcare workers and supplies to reach the areas where they're critically needed to contain the virus's spread. It is likely that we will not see our case resolved until mid-2021, rendering the December 30 deadline completely unattainable for our communities who so badly need assistance.

We thank Senators Murkowski and Hassan for their leadership on this issue, and we look forward to a court decision that will grant our Alaska Native people the relief funding that is rightfully theirs.

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For background on ANCs and the CARES Act, please go to <https://ancsaregional.com/cares-act/>.