



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO, PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, ON REMOVAL OF FISCAL RELIEF FOR CITIES FROM TAX PACKAGE

May 22, 2003

“The nation’s mayors are extremely disappointed that Congress appears poised to drop fiscal relief for cities from the tax package.

“Cities across the country are hurting because of increased homeland security costs, the weak national economy, and large cuts in state aid. Cities educate our children, pave our streets, and patrol our neighborhoods. We provide direct, visible, essential services every day to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

“Mayors fought hard not only for assistance to cities but also for state aid, at a time when governors were reluctant to speak up for themselves. Providing federal aid to states without any requirement that they, in turn, help cities is economically and politically foolish.

“Mayors will continue to work for direct fiscal assistance and urge Congress to restore the earmarked funding for local governments.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1,183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. The primary roles of the Conference are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. More information is available at www.usmayors.org.

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