Large counties deliver *Why Counties Matter* message to Capitol Hill, Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. – County leaders from the nation’s largest counties today carried the *Why Counties Matter* message to Capitol Hill and urged members of Congress and the Administration to support federal funding and legislative priorities affecting large, metropolitan counties and their residents. The priorities included federal funding for housing and community development programs, protecting Medicaid and preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds which leads to local jobs and economic development opportunities.

The officials are participating in the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) “fly-in” advocacy effort, May 7-9, in Washington, D.C. LUCC is a bipartisan coalition of elected and appointed county officials from across the nation representing about 130 million people.

The advocacy effort is being led by LUCC Chair Helen Holton, council member, Baltimore City, Md. Issues include preserving the federal-state-local partnership for healthcare – especially Medicaid funding – and funding priorities for important housing and community development programs such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

In addition, LUCC members are urging Congress to support the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds which state and local governments use to build America’s schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, airports, public transit, water systems and other essential public infrastructure.

Another critically important issues is The Marketplace Fairness Act, a bill that would authorize state and local governments to collect already-owed sales and use taxes on online sales transactions. The bill was passed by the U.S. Senate on May 6. County leaders are now urging the U.S. House of Representatives to quickly passed it and send it to the president’s desk for his signature.

The *Why Counties Matter* message is important because counties deliver essential services directly to people to keep our communities healthy, vibrant, safe and fiscally sound. County leaders believe that all levels of government must work together to find innovative ways to meet the needs of communities and jump-start local economies. More information about LUCC is available [here](#).

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*The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,069 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).*