

# NEWS

## Paul Tsongas CONGRESSMAN

FOR RELEASE:

NOON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1976

5th District  
Massachusetts

Lowell  
Lawrence  
Lexington

50 Kearney Sq.  
469 Essex St.  
185 Bedford St.

According to U.S. Rep. Paul Tsongas, Congress has taken the first step towards extending the General Revenue Sharing Program. Lawrence would receive an estimated \$1,584,729 next year under the program.

"The extension of revenue sharing assures much needed financial assistance for the hard pressed cities and towns in the Fifth District," Tsongas stated. "Failure to extend the program, which for Lawrence has meant \$7,612,938 over the past five years, would result in a significant increase in the tax rate."

Tsongas stated legislation extending revenue sharing has now been approved by the House Subcommittee which had previously been reluctant to extend the program. He stressed that a number of additional roadblocks exist before final passage by the Congress. In addition, Tsongas said he intends to work for proposed amendments which increase funds for urban areas. Present legislation stipulates that no communities would receive less than 1976 totals.

The Freshman Representative said he shares the concern of community leaders who have noted that further Congressional delays would make it difficult to prepare 1977 budgets. And Tsongas noted that revenue sharing funds are also available for county and state governments, which face similar problems.

"By the end of the present year," Tsongas stated, "the Fifth District will have received a five year total of \$48.8 million under revenue sharing. It is difficult to imagine how our cities and towns, hard hit by recession and inflation, would have been able to make ends meet without this program. I intend to do everything I can to see that it continues," the Congressman concluded.

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