March 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

As non-profit medical and dental specialty associations, we write regarding potential federal intervention to support those organizations that have been impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We urge you to include associations, nonprofits and other tax-exempt organizations within any federal aid packages or supplemental appropriations measures, as many have been and will be harmed by event cancellations and reduced meeting attendance as a result of COVID-19.

As you are no doubt aware, the fast-spreading COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the cancellation of dozens of major meetings and events in the U.S. and forced other event sponsors to consider cancelling or postponing innumerable other events dependent on in-person attendance at convention centers, hotels and other event facilities. Most of our respective organizations have had to cancel major events resulting in significant disruption and considerable expense. The revenue from these meetings provides operating funds that allow these organizations to continue to function and meet their core non-profit missions of scientific and clinical education, and the loss of this revenue will be impactful.

Additionally, many associations operate similarly to small businesses and are greatly impacted if employees are forced to take sick leave or are quarantined as a result of COVID-19 interaction. We are aware the Trump Administration and Congress are considering measures for small businesses that may require cash flow assistance amid the outbreak, and urge that tax-exempt entities be included in any temporary aid designed to stem the economic fallout resulting from COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Dental Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Urological Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society for Radiation Oncology
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society of Gynecology Oncology
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

CC:

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510