

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