

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth HOB
Washington DC 20515

Leader Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515

April 14, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

We appreciate your leadership in providing unprecedented resources for American small businesses through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136). Unfortunately, local chambers of commerce, which play a crucial role in sustaining our Main Street economy, are ineligible for assistance through the lending programs included in this legislation. Given the severe financial difficulties that many of these organizations are now confronting, we ask that you include language in the next coronavirus relief bill to enable local chambers and other 501(c)(6) organizations that support the needs of our local businesses to access direct federal aid.

Chambers of commerce are non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that bring together business leaders in our communities, helping them to negotiate shared challenges and promote local economic development. At this exceptionally difficult time for our Main Street economy, local chambers are providing critical guidance and resources to help small businesses weather the current economic downturn, including urgently-needed assistance in obtaining loans and grant funding from the federal government.

Unfortunately, just like the small businesses they serve, many local chambers are now experiencing their own financial challenges. If these organizations are unable to survive, the path to recovery for our hard-hit Main Street economy will be even more difficult. To help local chambers meet their current obligations and continue assisting small businesses in our communities, we strongly believe that Congress should ensure these organizations are eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and allow them to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program.

Again, we believe the CARES Act will make a significant positive difference in our communities. However, to ensure that local chambers of commerce can continue to support small businesses at this precarious moment for our country, we are hopeful that you will take action to enable chambers of commerce and other 501(c)(6) organizations that support the needs of our local businesses to receive direct federal support through the initiatives in this legislation. We are grateful for your attention to this request and appreciate your diligent and committed work during this crisis.

Sincerely,

Nick Pilch, Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: Shaun Charles, Albany Chamber of Commerce, shaun@beaconhomecare.com
Tod Abbott, Albany Chamber of Commerce, tod@fullorbitweb.com

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Congresswoman Barbara Lee
1301 Clay Street, Ste. 1000-N
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Letter by Rep. Seth Moulton and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick's supporting nonprofits

April 14, 2020

Dear Congresswoman Lee,

Communities in California need nonprofit organizations like the YMCA more than ever before in this time of crisis. Charities are truly frontline responders providing food, shelter, medical services and other critical services to those in need. However, nonprofits also need resources in order to continue to serve those who rely on us as the current economic downturn results in reduced contributions and other sources of revenue.

Please show your support of nonprofits by signing on to Rep. Seth Moulton and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick's bipartisan letter to House and Senate leadership calling for support for nonprofits to be included in the next coronavirus response bill.

We need the next coronavirus response bill to build on the foundation laid in the CARES Act to provide federal support for the nonprofit organizations working in communities across the country to help the most vulnerable among us. It is imperative that Congress take dramatic and immediate action to support the Y and other nonprofit organizations, as our efforts are needed like never before.

Nonprofits need Congress to:

- **Expand Nonprofit Access to Relief and Support:** Establish a distinct reserve dedicated to funding nonprofit loans and expand the eligibility for nonprofits to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program by modifying the current 500-employee cap or by other means. Adjust Economic Stabilization Fund or other mechanisms to implement programs to support nonprofit employers with between 500 and 10,000 employees, including loan-forgiveness and other provisions. Provide clear guidance and maximum flexibility to private lenders to prioritize processing the applications of charitable nonprofits.

- **Unemployment Insurance Reimbursement:** Treat self-funded nonprofits fairly by increasing the federal unemployment insurance reimbursement for self-funded nonprofits to 100% of costs. As currently written Section 2103 of the CARES Act will subject nonprofits throughout the country to crippling payments to their state unemployment systems later this year, while other employers will likely experience little or no additional costs resulting from mass COVID-19-related layoffs. The impacts will be real. States will be greatly challenged to distinguish among employers in an already overburdened system due to the unprecedented surge in new applicants. Many nonprofits will be hit with a bill for reimbursement to states at a time when they will be in the highest demand for providing services. This could actually inhibit nonprofits' ability to perform.
- **Strengthen Charitable Giving Incentives:** Encourage donations to the work of charitable organizations in their communities by enabling taxpayers making donations on and after March 13 (date of national emergency declaration) and before July 16 to claim the deductions on their 2019 tax filings. This retroactive application should apply to itemized and above-the-line deductions during this critical period to encourage an influx of donations when these nonprofits need them most. Also, enhance the Above-the-Line Deduction in the CARES Act by increasing the \$300/person cap and extending the effective date of the incentive.

Whether it's providing child care for essential workers, distributing grab-and-go meals to kids who normally rely on school lunch, or hosting blood drives, YMCAs along with other nonprofits are working quickly to respond to the challenges of the coronavirus crisis.

Sincerely,

Nick Pilch, Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: Fran Gallati, President and CEO Associated Services Center, YMCA of the East Bay
fgallati@ymcaeastbay.org

Mary D'Elia, Executive Director of the Albany Y, mdelia@ymcaeastbay.org