

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the House
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
Chair
House Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Chair
Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Chair Velazquez and Chair Rubio:

First, we write to thank you for the historic passage of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The undersigned organizations represent a broad coalition of industry trade associations that are working diligently with individuals desperately in need of the aid offered by the stimulus program. We write to you to urge that you include 501-C-6 organizations among the list of entities that qualify for assistance under the Paycheck Protection Program.

As the country gears up for what is bound to be one of the most difficult years in U.S. history, small businesses, independent contractors and the self-employed are seeking out help more than ever. Under unprecedented circumstances, these individuals are heavily leaning on trade associations to find training, guidance and peer-to-peer support as they navigate closed businesses, shelter-in-place restrictions, changing work parameters, and difficult budgetary decisions.

During the 2008 Great Recession, trade associations were instrumental in helping struggling businesses reinvent themselves to thrive despite changing economic landscapes and to help them rebound. Today, trade associations are playing that same role.

It is important to underscore that trade associations, like many struggling businesses, are employers. These nonprofit member-based organizations are facing similar difficult budgetary decisions, including possible layoffs. At a time when small businesses are relying more and more on these organizations, many small trade associations are in need of the same support small businesses are receiving to keep people on payroll and to keep overhead costs current.

The Paycheck Protection Program extended loans and loan forgiveness programs to businesses that employ fewer than 500 employees. The program also extended aid to 501c(3) non-profits because they too were facing difficult reduction of income streams while offering much needed public service during these difficult times. However, trade associations categorized as 501c(6)s were not included in the Paycheck Protection Program.

The undersigned organizations urge Congress to include 501c(6) organizations in the next Coronavirus legislation in order to access relief through the Payroll Protection Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

American Land Title Association

Asian Real Estate Association of America

Latino Hotel Association

National Association for Equal Opportunity In Higher Education

National Association of Black Hotel Owners & Operators and Developers

National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals

National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies

National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers

National Association of Minority Bankers of America

National Association of Real Estate Brokers

National Association of Realtors

National Association of Women in Real Estate Business

National Business League, Inc.

National Housing Conference

National Leased Housing Association

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce