

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The undersigned state, specialty, and national medical associations collectively employ thousands of employees and represent hundreds of thousands of physician members across the country. We greatly appreciate the actions taken by Congress to help physicians on the frontlines of patient care meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes passage of the CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, which established and provided supplemental funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). These Acts have helped many physician practices and other small businesses, including 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, cover payroll and other expenses during a period of severe loss in revenue caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency. **We join with thousands of other professional and trade associations throughout the country in urging Congress to extend eligibility for the PPP loan program to include Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations in the final version of the next COVID-19 aid package.**

The CARES Act limited the types of nonprofit organizations that are eligible for a PPP loan to 501(c)(3) organizations. This means that other 501(c) nonprofit organizations, such as 501(c)(6) professional associations, cannot access the same PPP loans—or the favorable features of such loans, such as forgiveness—as other small businesses. However, many 501(c)(6) organizations are small businesses, and the COVID-19 public health emergency has had the same devastating impact on their business operations and ability to retain employees as other small businesses. For example, many medical professional associations generate a significant portion of their revenue by holding conferences and providing essential continuing medical education sessions that help maintain and improve quality patient care. Because the COVID-19 public health emergency has caused these conferences to be cancelled, many professional associations are facing severe financial losses and are in urgent need of financial assistance to remain in business. This could lead to the reduction in other services that benefit patients and are essential to maintaining a strong physician workforce, such as programs that improve the quality and efficiency of physician practices, improve physician satisfaction and wellbeing, or provide a pathway for clinical reentry following a life event such as raising a family.

501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations not only contribute significantly to the economy, they employ staff that are dedicated to improving the quality of the professional membership or trade they represent. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association

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American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy
American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Emergency Medicine
American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association for Hand Surgery
American Association for Physician Leadership
American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Association of Medical Society Executives
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Group Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society for Surgery of the Hand
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Breast Surgeons
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Dermatopathology
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of General Surgeons
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
American Urological Association
College of American Pathologists

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International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery
Medical Group Management Association
Obesity Medicine Association
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Interventional Radiology
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Medical Association of the State of Alabama
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
California Medical Association
Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Florida Medical Association Inc
Medical Association of Georgia
Hawaii Medical Association
Idaho Medical Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Indiana State Medical Association
Iowa Medical Society
Kansas Medical Society
Kentucky Medical Association
Louisiana State Medical Society
Maine Medical Association
Michigan State Medical Society
Minnesota Medical Association
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
North Carolina Medical Society
North Dakota Medical Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Oklahoma State Medical Association
Oregon Medical Association

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Pennsylvania Medical Society
Rhode Island Medical Society
South Carolina Medical Association
South Dakota State Medical Association
Tennessee Medical Association
Texas Medical Association
Utah Medical Association
Vermont Medical Society
Medical Society of Virginia
Washington State Medical Association
West Virginia State Medical Association
Wisconsin Medical Society