

December 15, 2020

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

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

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
The U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for 501(c)(6) Associations During Coronavirus Pandemic

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

On behalf of the 29 undersigned physician, dental and healthcare organizations, we write to strongly urge you to include Section 501(c)(6) nonprofit associations in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) as you consider legislation to provide relief due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). We thank you for your continued commitment to helping our members, their practices, their employees, and the patients they serve.

At a time when healthcare professionals across America are caring for patients on the frontlines of this PHE, national, state, and local medical and dental organizations are supporting and providing educational resources so that the healthcare community has the tools needed to administer the highest quality care during this unprecedented time, and for the future. **Furthermore, placing a limit on the number of employees or the lobbying activities of those 501(c)(6) organizations that may seek relief via the PPP would arbitrarily eliminate many of us and our state and local associations and societies.**

Like other small businesses and 501(c)(3) non-profit associations, 501(c)(6) medical and dental organizations have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our organizations are facing unprecedented financial losses from past and future event cancellations. Further losses are anticipated in dues and product revenues, as our members address their own economically precarious circumstances by cutting expenses, including association memberships. Without access to federal assistance such as the PPP, many 501(c)(6) organizations have already been forced to lay off employees and/or scale back on the important professional and education services that members depend on these organizations to provide.

As you complete your work on the next phase of COVID-19 legislation, we urgently request critically needed support for the 501(c)(6) medical and dental community by allowing the same access to the Paycheck Protection Program that has been afforded to other non-profit associations. In addition, we ask that you oppose the inclusion of any new limits on the number of employees or restrictions on lobbying activities, so that these associations can continue to serve as a trusted resource for healthcare professionals, patients and policymakers alike during this pandemic and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued efforts to provide relief to our members.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Endodontists
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American Association of Women Dentists
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Prosthodontists
American College of Rheumatology
American Dental Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Student Dental Association
American Urological Association
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists
National Dental Association
Renal Physicians Association
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Thoracic Surgeons