



Dear Maryland Chamber and Federated Members:

We received information today, March 23, 2020, that there are problems with the third version of the Time to Care Act which will severely limit how many businesses and nonprofits are able to access disaster relief, including 501 C6 organizations. Please read the prepared message below and edit the salutation accordingly to audience.

Business Partner/Legislator/Other Audience:

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce is actively monitoring federal and state legislation seeking to address challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis to ensure that it appropriately balances public health and safety with the economic realities employees and employers are facing at this time.

Today, we have a new ask: A central component of the massive economic stimulus package (dubbed "COVID 3" because it is the third coronavirus relief bill Congress is considering) is giving the Treasury Department the authority to disburse hundreds of billions of dollars in emergency federal loans to businesses hurt economically by the coronavirus. About \$500 billion is earmarked for the airlines, businesses, cities and states. There would also be an additional \$350 billion in loan guarantees for small businesses to help them avoid layoffs. The current bill language includes "nonprofit organizations" as eligible for the small business loans, but not specifically all 501(c) organizations like 501(c)(6) trade and professional associations.

To ensure all Section 501(c) organizations are included in crucial stimulus funding to combat, COVID-19, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and its membership request Congress to reconsider its limitation that includes only Section 501(c)(3) within the definition of "nonprofit organization" for SBA loan eligibility. Without this financial support, innumerable associations will fail.

Associations and other Section 501(c) organizations play an important role to train America's workforce, create industry and professional standards and disseminate essential information and resources to people in need – particularly during times of crisis. These organizations are already needed to help coordinate federal resources, and they require staff to fulfill this duty. Without support, however, and due to unprecedented financial loss from event cancellations, associations will be unable to meet this critical obligation.

We encourage you to write your legislators with this urgent appeal to help ensure all associations are eligible for these small business loans. This third COVID-19 package is moving quite rapidly so it's important to request changes as soon as possible.

Thank you for your strong support.

Christine Ross

President & CEO

