

April 9, 2020

**RE: Stimulus Funding to Support 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(5) Organizations**

Dear Members of Maryland's Congressional Delegation:


As leaders from Maryland's business and professional associations, representing hundreds of thousands of members from across the state, we are committed to doing our part to assist in mitigating the current public health crisis. We believe that the health and safety of our members and their employees is of paramount importance. We also believe that federal actions taken to address the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis must appropriately balance public health and safety with the economic realities that we and our members are facing at this time.

We are pleased that President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act quickly, so that American families and businesses can stay afloat throughout this unprecedented pandemic and economic shutdown. With direct payments to American families, \$367 billion in loans for small businesses, \$500 billion for larger industries and expanded unemployment benefits for our workers, it is the largest economic rescue package in our nation's history—and we are thankful for all that it will do to aid in keeping our economy moving.

While we also appreciate that 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(5) organizations like ours can indeed access certain aid through an employee retention tax credit and expanded Economic Injury Disaster Loans, Section 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(5) organizations were not included in the Paycheck Protection Program.

As you know, Section 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(5) organizations include trade and professional associations as well as local, county and regional chambers of commerce. Our organizations play a critical role in training America's workforce, creating industry and professional standards and disseminating essential information and resources to people in need—particularly during times of crisis. We are workforce development champions, economic developers, talent pipeline initiators, safety trainers and so much more.

We are also organizations that require staff and operational expenses to fulfill these duties. Due to unprecedented financial loss, without support, our organizations will be unable to meet our critical obligations to the members that we serve.



Collectively, we respectfully and urgently request financial support for 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(5) organizations, as it was provided for other members of the business and nonprofit communities, in future stimulus packages being considered by Congress. Thank you for your consideration and for your support of Maryland's businesses and employers during this evolving crisis.

Sincerely,

Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Maryland Retailers Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland  
Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce  
Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce  
Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Charles County Chamber of Commerce  
Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, Inc.  
Dorchester Chamber of Commerce  
Frederick County Association of Realtors  
Frederick County Building Industry Association  
Frederick County Chamber of Commerce  
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce  
Harford County Chamber of Commerce  
Howard County Chamber of Commerce  
International Association of Black Triathletes  
Maryland Association of CPAs, Inc.  
Maryland Building Industry Association  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
Maryland Hotel Lodging Association  
Maryland Motorcoach Association  
Maryland Society of Accounting & Tax Professionals  
Maryland State Bar Association  
Maryland Tech Council  
Maryland Tourism Coalition



MD | DC Credit Union Association  
Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce  
Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association  
Olney Chamber of Commerce  
Pikesville-Owings Mills Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Rockville Chamber of Commerce  
Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce  
St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce  
Visit Frederick  
Visit Howard County  
Washington County Chamber of Commerce  
Washington, Maryland, Delaware Service Station & Automotive Repair Association (WMDA)

