March 15, 2020

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

Dear Madam Speaker,

As the Administration considers federal intervention to temporarily assist industries impacted by the covid-19 virus, the Learning First Alliance urges you to include tax-exempt associations, especially in the education sector, suffering from the cancellations or reduction in attendance at professional meetings in any federal aid package.

The Learning First Alliance is a partnership of leading education non-profit organizations representing more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools. We share examples of success, encourage collaboration, and work toward the continual and long-term improvement of public education based on research.

Parents, school board members, superintendents, principals, teachers, counselors, technology educators, and others attend their association's meeting to learn more about improving education and governance. It is a vital part of their learning how to enhance learning for students across the nation. If the meetings are cancelled due to the virus, their associations will suffer and be less able to provide this professional learning to their members.

The fast-spreading covid-19 epidemic has prompted the cancellation of dozens of major meetings and events in the U.S. for teachers, administrators, school boards and others. The long-term impact of this loss of business will further restrict our nation's private sector from supporting an aggressive and continued improvement of the nation's schools.

While most education associations are very small; these non-profit associations have a disproportional dependence on their annual meetings to support for the research and journal publications for their professions and the school children they serve. Without that support the professional information, to improve education, will be lost.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have questions or wish to arrange a meeting, please contact Richard Long at 703-738-9081 or longr@learningfirst.org.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association American School Counselor Association Consortium of School Networking Learning Forward National Association of Elementary School Principals



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American Federation of Teachers

American School Counselor Association

Consortium for School Networking

Learning Forward

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Education Association

National PTA

National School Boards Association

National School Public Relations Association

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