

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 205153

April 30, 2020

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

The undersigned organizations, representing education stakeholders, urge you to include additional emergency support in the next coronavirus (COVID-19) aid package for Internal Revenue Code Section (Section) 501(c)(6) organizations, such as trade and professional education associations. We also request you to support an enhanced Employee Retention Tax Credit to provide continued relief for the remainder of the year.

During this national emergency, principals, teachers, and other school personnel are being asked to step up like never before for their students. They're more than willing to answer this call, and many are finding new, creative ways to care for their students through making personal phone calls to students and caregivers, providing grab-and-go meals at the school, and tailoring lesson plans and to keep students engaged with one another and their school community in an online environment. To help aid educators in these efforts, national, state, and local professional associations and organizations are sharing vital information, offering virtual professional learning opportunities, and providing support to educators as they navigate through the ongoing pandemic.

Unfortunately, many of these nonprofit organizations are facing severe financial constraints as a result of COVID-19. Many national associations, as well as their state and local level affiliate organizations, are projecting a loss of one-quarter to one-half of their annual revenues, which will cause layoffs and result in significant reductions in services for members in a time when these services are needed most. Most education associations are small and have a disproportional dependence on their annual meetings and other services to support the research and journal publications for their parents and professions that serve our school children. Without support, the professional information to improve education will be lost. This will have a profound impact on the long-term health of our society.

The current short-term relief provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, while much needed, did not provide the bridge support needed for most education associations to survive. While 501(c)(3) organizations qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), many of the nonprofit organizations that support educators are registered as 501(c)(6) organizations. These include professional associations, chambers of commerce, trade associations, and others. Although 501(c)(6)

organizations can access certain aid through an employee retention tax credit and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), additional support is needed to ensure these organizations can provide their members with the support necessary in these trying times. For this reason, we urge Congress to expand PPP in the next COVID-19 relief package to allow 501(c)(6) organizations to qualify for these loans.

We also request that Congress enhance the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) so it can provide continuous payroll relief that may help retain employees after PPP funds are fully used. Currently, small businesses and organizations cannot use the ERTC once their PPP loan application has been accepted. Allowing for the use of the credit for qualified payroll expenses during periods prior and after a PPP loan is utilized would provide ongoing relief.

The education community is one that strives to provide our nation's children with the best path forward for their future. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges that educators are facing head-on. We once again urge Congress to provide the necessary financial relief for the organizations and associations that are supporting these individuals.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical matter. We look forward to working with you to find the best solutions to support educators and students during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Signed

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)
Association of Education Service Agencies (AESA)
Committee for Children
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
Learning Forward
National Association for Music Education
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Black Justice Coalition
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National School Public Relations Association
National Summer Learning Association (NSLA)
PDK International
UNITE-LA