

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1806

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Small Business  
and Entrepreneurship

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Small  
Business and Entrepreneurship

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Rubio, and Ranking Member Cardin:

We appreciate your leadership in providing unprecedented resources for American small businesses through the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (Public Law 116-136). Unfortunately, local trade and professional associations organized under § 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code are ineligible for assistance through the lending programs included in this legislation. Given the crucial role these organizations play in sustaining the Main Street economy, and the severe financial difficulties they are confronting, we strongly support their inclusion in the next round of federal aid for coronavirus relief.

Organizations structured under 501(c)(6) bring the community together to help negotiate shared challenges and promote local economic development. These entities include regional chambers of commerce, nursing professional organizations, state CPA societies, state restaurant associations, and tourism and hospitality leagues, among others. At this exceptionally difficult time, they are providing critical guidance and resources to help small businesses weather the current economic downturn. Unfortunately, just like the small businesses they serve, many of these community leaders are now experiencing their own financial challenges. If these organizations are unable to survive, the path to recovery for our hard- hit Main Street economy will be even more difficult.

To help local 501(c)(6)s meet their current obligations and continue assisting small businesses in our communities, we endorse expanding access to the Paycheck Protection Program in forthcoming legislation. These organizations require revenue beyond annual member dues to make ends meet. As conferences and education events are postponed or cancelled, and contributions become uncertain, finding funds to continue operations and maintain payroll is an increasingly dire issue.

Again, we believe the *CARES Act* will make a significant positive difference in our communities. However, to ensure that local chambers of commerce and other 501(c)(6) organizations can continue to support small businesses at this precarious moment for our country, they need our help. We look forward to working together with you to address this matter in future legislation.

We are grateful for your attention to this request and appreciate your diligent and committed work during this crisis.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
U.S. Senator



Joe Manchin III  
U.S. Senator

Also signed by the following members of the U.S. Senate:

Richard Burr

Doug Jones

Steve Daines

Kyrsten Sinema

John Cornyn

Angus King, Jr.

Tim Scott

Gary Peters

Thom Tillis

Robert Menendez

Martha McSally

Jacky Rosen

John Boozman

Jon Tester

James Lankford

Debbie Stabenow