



December 10, 2020

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker**  
United States House of Representatives

**The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader**  
United States Senate

**The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader**  
United States Senate

**The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader**  
United States House of Representatives

***RE: Pass Further COVID-19 Relief Legislation and Support 501(c)(6) Nonprofit Organizations***

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

The undersigned 31 State Chambers of Commerce, which represent tens of thousands of businesses of all sizes from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies and hundreds of local chambers of commerce, implore you to **expand equal eligibility under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to include 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations**, in any prospective COVID-19 relief measure. Our survival as viable organizations depends on this critical funding.

State chambers of commerce are the leading advocates for job creation, advancing policies that improves competitiveness and accelerate economic growth. During this global pandemic they have been trusted providers of information to help businesses adapt, restart their business, become more resilient and cope with disruptive change. State chambers and their local chamber members are part of the critical business infrastructure that will help rebuild their respective economies and put millions of employees back to work.

Recent studies indicate that many nonprofit associations and other 501(c)(6) organizations have little or no financial cushion to carry them through this devastating time. Our State Chambers of Commerce are experiencing the same difficulties. Many expect to use half or more of reserve funds to cover current and projected losses. Others report insufficient reserves.

Since passage of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136), 501(c)(6)s have been without this essential relief made available to almost every other sector of the economy. As their reserve funds continue to deplete, any more time without aid puts us and the business community we represent in jeopardy.

We are grateful the House-passed HEROES Act includes a provision to expand PPP access to all 501(c) nonprofits and that Senate Republicans introduced the HEALS Act and subsequent legislation, which would expand the Program to certain 501(c)(6) organizations. The Senate language, however, includes inequitable employee caps and vague lobbying restrictions for 501(c)(6) organizations relative to all other borrowers.

**In addition to providing for 501(c)(6) eligibility, we urge you to enact the following PPP provisions:**

1. Reauthorize until at least March 31, 2021;
2. Include 501(c)(6) nonprofits in the so-called “second draw” program;
3. Expand the definition for eligible “receipts” within the “second draw” program to include in-person event cancellations and lost revenue from certification programs and other education; and
4. Apply lobbying language as outlined in Section 90001 of the HEROES Act and included in the broadly bipartisan Local Chamber, Tourism, and 501(c)(6) Protection Act of 2020 (H.R. 6697).[1]

Thank you for your consideration and continued service to our country during this challenging time.

## STATE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Alaska Chamber, AK

Mississippi Economic Council, MS

Arkansas State Chamber of  
Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas,  
AR

Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry,  
MO

California Chamber of Commerce, CA

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry,  
NE

Colorado Chamber of Commerce, CO

Business and Industry Association of New  
Hampshire, NH

Connecticut Business and Industry Association,  
CT

New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, NJ

Florida Chamber of Commerce, FL

Association of Commerce and Industry of New  
Mexico, NM

Georgia Chamber of Commerce, GA

The Business Council of New York State, NY

Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, HI

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry,  
ID

State Chamber of Oklahoma, OK

Illinois Chamber of Commerce, IL

Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and  
Industry, PA

Indiana Chamber of Commerce, IN

Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry,  
TN

Kansas Chamber of Commerce, KS

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, KY

Vermont Chamber of Commerce, VT

Maryland Chamber of Commerce, MD

Association of Washington Business, WA

Associated Industries of Massachusetts, MA

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, WV

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, MN

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, WI