



March 24, 2020

The Honorable Don Beyer
United States House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Beyer,

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of Virginia's businesses and employees during this coronavirus crisis. As we look ahead to further support initiatives, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce urges you to include significant emergency financial support for 501(c)(6) associations within federal stimulus or aid packages. As it stands today, only 501(c)(3) organizations are included in the current recovery package.

This emergency financial aid package leaves out the more than 4,000 chambers of commerce across the United States, many of which are the backbones of their communities serving small business and entrepreneurs. This legislation also leaves out 62,000 other professional associations that aren't being considered for emergency financial support. The association industry employs 1.3 million people and generates \$116 billion in revenue nationally. Additionally, chambers and associations provide critical community support services, especially at times of crisis such as this one.

Associations and nonprofits—both 501(c)3 and 501(c)6 organizations—are suffering major financial harm due to the unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak as a result of financial hardships faced by their members, and event and conference cancellations. Thousands of organizations depend on member contributions and event revenues to survive, and the harm may be irreparable for many without swift action. If chambers and associations are forced to shutter permanently, they will be unable to assist employees or provide essential services to our communities during this time of immense tribulation.

We urge you to include \$25 billion in capital assistance to associations and nonprofits in relief measures. The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) estimates that \$25 billion in emergency funding for the association and nonprofit communities will help our industry continue to support America's workforce and pursue our missions in public service. This support will not just help associations and nonprofits keep our doors open, it will protect employees' wellbeing and enable associations and nonprofits to continue pursuing our essential missions to benefit the economy and society as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO