



**National League
for Nursing**

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives 1236
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer and McCarthy:

On behalf of the National League for Nursing (NLN), the oldest nursing organization in the United States, I am writing to urge you to incorporate all 501(c) organizations, including professional associations in your efforts to provide financial support for businesses and organizations that have been harmed by the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the NLN promotes excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of the nation and the global community. The League represents more than 1,200 nursing schools, 40,000 members, and 25 regional constituent leagues.

As you are well aware, employers all across our nation are closing and cutting back due to the financial distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Section 501(c) organizations are no exception. Associations – large and small – face the potential threat of layoffs or even bankruptcy during this crisis. Through no action or fault of their own, associations risk losing their ability to provide for members and employees due to lost production, lost revenues and unexpected expenses related to conference and program cancellations and postponements.

We are grateful that Congress included funds through expanded Small Business Administration (SBA) loans to Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, among others. We strongly urge you to ensure that this assistance is included – and hopefully expanded – in any COVID-19 relief measures enacted by Congress and the Administration.

The NLN also supports the pandemic risk insurance program (PRIP) proposed by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). This proposal would require that businesses who demonstrate significant business interruption and sharp decline in present and future revenue would be insured in case of a possible pandemic or epidemic. It would create a federal “backstop,” much like the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA), for insurance claims related to a pandemic or epidemic. The specific purpose of pandemic risk insurance would be to provide for a federal loss-sharing program for certain insured losses resulting from a certified pandemic/epidemic.

In summary, 501(c)(3) organizations such as the NLN play an important role in educating and preparing America’s health care workforce, developing and implementing professional standards, and providing essential information and resources to health care professionals and the patients they care for, particularly in times of public health crisis. Without federal support, however, and due to unprecedented financial loss from event cancellations, associations will be hard-pressed to meet this critical obligation. I strongly urge you to ensure that these organizations receive the full financial support they must have to survive as part of any legislation providing relief from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the public health and support the nation’s nurses and other health care professionals. We are eager to work with you to identify and implement policies to address this crisis and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss them further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Malone", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer