

March 23, 2020

Dear Senate and House Appropriators:

We write on behalf of the American Seniors Housing Association (ASHA) and Argentum, the leading national trade associations exclusively dedicated to supporting companies operating professionally managed, resident-centered senior living communities and the older adults and families they serve.

We applaud your leadership in addressing the needs of seniors in the proposed Federal Stimulus 3.0 Package and Emergency Appropriation bills. However, with all due respect it is not enough.

Our members are on the frontlines of this pandemic and we hear from them every day, sharing the good work they and their staff are doing as they care for our seniors. They are working 24/7 without adequate supplies and safety equipment, they are hiring and training additional staff while paying bonuses and overtime to those who heroically prioritize the care of their residents. They are not backing away from this unprecedented challenge but the financial stress on our industry cannot be overstated.

Unless you clarify that under the **Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund**, a specific allocation is intended for the senior living industry (independent living, assisted living, memory care and continuing care retirement communities) , it is highly likely those resources will be disproportionately disbursed to the hospitals and other traditional health care providers. We are not nursing homes and we are not hospitals, but we do care for 1 million frail seniors across the country. While deserving as every health care entity is, we are too. And we also believe that the fund should be increased to at least \$100 billion to meet the ongoing needs of the health care community.

Please consider amending this section to reflect the following:

***Emergency Appropriations: PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND***

*For an additional amount for “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, \$100,000,000,000 to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for necessary expenses to reimburse, through grants or other mechanisms, eligible health care providers for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus: Provided, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph in this Act may be used for costs that have been reimbursed or are eligible for reimbursement from other sources: Provided further, That “eligible health care providers” means public entities Medicare or Medicaid enrolled suppliers and providers, senior living providers (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Continuing Care Retirement Communities) and such for-profit entities and not-for-profit entities not otherwise described in this proviso as the Secretary may specify, within the United States (including territories), that provide diagnoses, testing, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19, as determined by the Secretary: Provided further; That 20% of the Emergency Fund shall be reserved for senior living providers. Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency*

*requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.*

Senior living communities are committed and can be instrumental in flattening the curve. But we need the tools to be effective. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Schless". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Schless" clearly distinguishable.

David Schless  
President  
American Seniors Housing Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Balda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Balda" clearly distinguishable.

James Balda  
President & CEO  
Argentum