

*Congress of the United States*  
*Washington, D. C. 20515*

December 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Senior housing, including independent living, assisted living, and memory care, provides services to nearly two million seniors and employs almost one million workers. These communities play an important role in each Congressional district throughout the country, providing alternative living arrangements that promote healthy living in a community setting. Unfortunately, senior living has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and needs additional support.

Senior living losses are long-term, compounding, and unsustainable. Early estimates suggest current losses are north of \$15 billion due to a higher than average monthly turnover rate among employees and a lack of offsetting move-ins due to negative public perceptions and continued visitation restrictions. Additionally, considerable expenses such as hero pay, overtime, personal protective equipment, cleaning, sanitization and other items have increased the financial losses experienced by senior living operators.

The National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) reports that approximately 29,000 Assisted Living properties are operating across the nation today – 39% of which are run by operators of chains with 25+ communities and 38% of chains with 2 to 24 communities. Although each community has far fewer than 500 employees, these often local and regional chains were ineligible for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans due to their aggregate employee count exceeding 500 employees. In fact, a joint report by American Seniors Housing Association (ASHA) and HealthTrust titled *The Immediate Financial Impact of COVID-19 on Senior Living Communities* suggests “relatively few” private pay senior living operators obtained PPP funds.

Given the demographic trend of our nation’s senior population and important role senior living communities play as a part of the health care continuum, we believe Congress can ill afford to forego financial support. We therefore respectfully request that as Congress considers additional PPP funding to help sustain businesses and health care needs throughout our communities, assisted living operators be eligible for PPP loan dollars if individual locations are below the 500-employees threshold.

The financial impact of COVID-19 to every entity on the front lines cannot be stressed enough. Offering a meaningful level of support from the PPP to senior living communities will ensure these critical communities come out stronger on the other side of this pandemic. In the weeks

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and months ahead, we look forward to continuing to work with you in fighting this pandemic and helping our seniors stay safe and healthy. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY GONZALEZ  
Member of Congress

MIKE TURNER  
Member of Congress

ANDRÉ CARSON  
Member of Congress

BOB GIBBS  
Member of Congress

BRIAN FITZPATRICK  
Member of Congress

JEFF VAN DREW  
Member of Congress

JAMES R. BAIRD  
Member of Congress

BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress

BOBBY L. RUSH  
Member of Congress