



February 11, 2021

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

Throughout the course of this pandemic, the health and safety of senior living residents and the staff who serve them, has been the top priority for owners and operators of senior living communities across the country. I have been proud to serve the American Seniors Housing Association (ASHA) throughout this crisis and to witness the passion and commitment of the membership as they navigate the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19. ASHA represents over 550 of the leading owners and operators of senior living communities across the county, including assisted living, independent living, memory care and continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs).

The industry has served on the front lines of this public health crisis for the last 11 months, taking extraordinary measures to keep their residents and staff safe, engaged and supported. As you advance additional COVID-19 relief legislation, please recognize the significant efforts of these committed professionals. The financial stress is real and meaningful financial relief to these senior living communities is warranted.

ASHA Request: We strongly encourage you to take action to replenish the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) and support targeted funding to the senior living industry.

While the vaccine is making its way to our communities and into the arms of residents and staff, we are not yet out of the woods. The average age of a resident living in one of our communities is 85 years old and living with underlying health conditions, making them especially vulnerable to contracting COVID-19. As new coronavirus variants emerge and ongoing vaccination efforts present challenges, this industry remains committed to rigorous safety precautions, but we need your help.

The approximately 1 million employees of senior living continue to work 24/7 to care for the almost 2 million seniors in this country who call senior living home. Enhanced infection control and safety protocols, PPE and COVID-19 tests and symptom screening, hiring additional staff, creating alternative dining options, facilitating virtual visits with family and friends, are just a few of the countless enhancements and additions that were required to prevent COVID-19 from entering these buildings and mitigate spread when it did. It is critical that these efforts be recognized and allocated a meaningful level of support from the PRF so that they are able to continue their work to protect their residents and staff and ultimately recover from the significant financial toll of COVID-19. *The annual financial impact to the senior living industry is estimated at \$17 billion.*

This request is critical. The current PRF is running low and the industry has received very little to date (approximately \$1 billion) to help recover some of their COVID-19 related expenses and losses. While we are appreciative for this allocation, it is not adequate to cover the significant outlays and revenue loss that occurred throughout 2020 and continue into 2021. While there are remaining funds in the PRF, there is no assurance that senior living will be allocated any further relief. Without a replenishment of the PRF in this next bill, or another allocation from existing funds, these companies will not have access to the financial relief they desperately need.

The senior living industry is committed to continuing to do whatever it takes to limit exposure and protect the health of their residents and staff. When residents and staff are safe and healthy, the overall health care system benefits.

Please reach out with questions or to discuss this request to Jeanne McGlynn Delgado, ASHA's VP of Government Affairs at jeanne@seniorshousing.org.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Schless". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Schless
President