



February 26, 2021

**Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Hoyer and Minority Whip Scalise**

As you prepare to take the American Rescue Plan to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today, please take note of a significant provision that has been removed from the bill, ***Section 3035, Funding for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and mitigation activities in congregate settings. This provision provides \$1.8 billion in critical assistance.*** This was approved in the Energy and Commerce markup but has been deleted by the Rules Committee with no clear or obvious explanation. We respectfully seek your leadership to put this funding back in the bill.

The senior living industry has served on the front lines since the very beginning of this pandemic, taking great care to keep seniors and their staff safe. This has come at a great cost and yet this industry continues to be overlooked and undervalued for this significant work.

The senior living industry, which includes assisted living, independent living, memory care and continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), houses and cares for almost 2 million seniors and employs almost 1 million employees who serve these seniors with compassion and diligence each day.

This industry has not been adequately addressed for much needed and warranted financial relief and vaccine distribution and testing assistance has been uneven at best.

We continue to call on Congress for the replenishment of the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) which is the primary source of relief for our industry. To date, out of the \$178 billion approved by Congress in the CARES Act and subsequent relief measures, the industry was allocated approximately \$1 billion with many providers still awaiting payment for their 1Q and 2Q expenses. While this limited relief is much appreciated, industry analysts estimate the annual financial impact of COVID-19 to the industry is approximately \$14 - \$17 billion.

**While we are discouraged that this \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 Relief does not include a replenishment of the PRF, the bill did include a minimal amount of \$1.8 billion to help congregate care communities with testing, vaccine, PPE and mitigation tools. To remove these limited, but much needed, resources to help our communities continue the fight against COVID-19 indicates a total disregard for the senior living industry.**

Please take action to add Section 3035 back into the bill. While it is not a substitute for the larger financial needs that can be addressed by PRF funding, it is the only provision in this bill that offers resources to senior living communities who are in critical need of relief. Please contact Jeanne McGlynn Delgado at [jeanne@seniorshousing.org](mailto:jeanne@seniorshousing.org) with questions or further discussion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Schless".

David Schless

President

**cc: House Energy and Commerce Committee**