



March 2, 2021

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Seniors Housing Association (ASHA) and the senior living companies who have worked tirelessly, diligently, and compassionately over the last year to keep their senior residents and staff safe, I ask that **as you advance the American Rescue Plan (ARP), please recognize the significant efforts of these committed professionals, and include provider relief funding to help them recoup some of their lost revenue and additional COVID-19 related expenses. The nearly exhausted Provider Relief Fund (PRF) requires a replenishment to ensure a healthy recovery for those who have served during this crisis. The financial stress is real (\$14-\$17 billion annual impact) and meaningful relief to these senior living communities is warranted.**

Specifically, we ask that you support Senator Manchin's, HEALTH CARE HEROES SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM FUND which creates a \$35 billion health care provider fund. The existing relief funds for health care providers, including senior living communities are simply not adequate. It is disturbing that there are no additional relief funds in this COVID relief bill. In fact, the House took action to remove the one provision that offered resources to congregate care settings. The bottom line is that sources of relief need to be expanded and this provision is a step in the right direction. ***Please include the Manchin proposal in the Mangers Amendment to the ARP and fund it at the requested \$35 billion level.***

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 Q1 and Q2 expenses. While this limited relief is much appreciated, it pales in comparison to the need. There is much to do to help these businesses recover the extraordinary revenue losses they are realizing and significant additional expenses they have incurred associated with COVID-19 preparation and response. The PRF has been one of the few assistance programs available to this industry. We urge you to replenish the fund so that as all health care providers continue to battle COVID-19, necessary relief resources will be available to them. Absent specific PRF funding, the Manchin proposal will go a long way to address the needs of the 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 and living with underlying health conditions, making them especially vulnerable to contracting COVID-19. As new coronavirus variants emerge and ongoing vaccination efforts continue, this industry remains committed to rigorous safety precautions and protocols, but we need your help. The financial burden cannot be overstated and for many it is not sustainable.

It is critical that the senior living industry have access to financial relief in this bill. Those who have already done so much are depending on relief to get to the other side of this pandemic. Please reach out

with questions to Jeanne McGlynn Delgado, ASHA VP of Government Affairs, at jeanne@seniorshousing.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Schless
President