

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

**Request for Paycheck Protection Program Support for 501(c)(6)'s Non-Profits Relief in Future COVID-19 Legislation**

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

On behalf of the undersigned osteopathic specialty and state organizations, and the more than 151,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students we represent, thank you for the steps you have already taken in order to provide financial stability to many small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the people they serve, through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Our organizations appreciate Congress' continued attention to the ongoing financial challenges faced by physician practices, nonprofit organizations, and other small businesses.

We are grateful for the PPP funding and programmatic improvements that were included in the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act and the Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act. However, we believe an important segment of the healthcare community is still unable to meet the eligibility requirements for PPP. As such, we request that the next legislative package addressing new and continuing economic and medical concerns relating to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic include financial relief and stability for 501(c)(6) tax-exempt medical and trade associations that have been adversely impacted by this pandemic.

Our nonprofit organizations are working tirelessly to ensure that the osteopathic physician (DO) community has the tools needed to provide patients with the highest quality care, not only on the frontlines of this pandemic, but throughout the year and for the future. This support includes, but is not limited to, providing educational resources, addressing physician burnout, balancing family life, furthering DO medical training, and disseminating up-to-date best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Many 501(c)(6) associations have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 just like small businesses and 501(c)(3) nonprofit associations. As with small businesses and 501(c)(3) nonprofit

associations, many 501(c)(6)s may be forced to cut staff or scale back on services without federal financial intervention. The current challenges and future uncertainty faced by 501(c)(6) medical associations includes hosting major meetings, events and conventions, coordination and development of scientific and clinical education resources, and providing Continuing Medical Education (CME).

CME, in particular, is a critical component of the benefits provided by many 501(c)(6)s; it ensures that physicians and other medical professionals are providing high-quality evidence-based care throughout their careers, and is required for maintaining state medical licenses. Unfortunately, while we are continuing our efforts to support physicians across our states and medical specialties, we are also navigating the impact of canceled meetings, conventions, and educational conferences. This has led to the cancellation of numerous contracts, incurring potential financial penalties and revenue losses. All the while, we are continuing our efforts to support the healthcare community during this critical time.

As discussions are taking place regarding what to include in the future COVID-19 legislation, we respectfully request relief for the 501(c)(6) medical community, so we can continue to serve as a trusted resource for physicians, patients and policymakers alike during this pandemic and beyond.

If you have questions regarding the recommendations outlined above, or if the AOA can be a resource in any way, please contact David Pugach, JD, AOA Senior Vice President of Public Policy, at [DPugach@osteopathic.org](mailto:DPugach@osteopathic.org) or (202) 349-8753.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

American Osteopathic Association

American Academy of Osteopathy

American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians

American College of Osteopathic Surgeons

American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine

American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics

American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists

American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine

American Osteopathic College of Radiology

American Osteopathic Society of Rheumatic Diseases

American Osteopathic Association of Prolotherapy Regenerative Medicine

Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association  
Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons  
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association  
Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association  
Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons  
Idaho Osteopathic Physicians Association  
Indiana Osteopathic Association  
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association  
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine  
Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association  
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association  
Maine Osteopathic Association  
Massachusetts Osteopathic Society  
Michigan Osteopathic Association  
Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society  
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association  
North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association  
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
Ohio Osteopathic Association  
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association  
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California  
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon  
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association  
South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society  
Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association  
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association  
Vermont State Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association  
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association  
West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association  
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons