

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Frontline Nursing Professional Organizations Request Eligibility under SBA's Paycheck Protection Program**

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

**The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) and the undersigned nursing organizations write to request Congress expand eligibility under the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program to non-profit 501(c)(6) organizations. Unfortunately, 501(c)(6) organizations were not previously included and this oversight is causing hardship for nursing professional organizations whose members are on the front lines of treating the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.** Like other organizations we are experiencing significant loss of revenue directly associated with membership dues, professional development, and the cancellation of national scientific conferences and educational meetings.

Our organizations seek the opportunity to apply for financial relief at this difficult time in the same manner as small businesses and other non-profit entities already eligible under the program. As professional organizations for various nursing roles we are charged with providing leadership for nurses in areas such as health policy, clinical education, certification, and licensure, which enable nurses to better serve their patients.

We understand the reason 501(c)(6) organizations may not have been included in the recent CARES Act relating to the new SBA Paycheck Protection Program is because many such organizations exercise the right under the Constitution to redress grievances to the Congress and the Administration. In other words, they may lobby the Congress and the Administration on areas of interest, such as federal health policy. We believe our organizations add value to that

dialogue. It should not make us ineligible for relief that is meant to help Americans maintain employment during this challenging time.

Recently, many of our groups were invited to the White House by the Office of the Vice President to discuss federal health policy involving clinical practice and how nurses could help. We further advocated for better access to personal protective equipment for all health professionals. Should this meeting and similar meetings with members of Congress disqualify our 501(c)(6) organizations from federal resources meant to save American jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**As you navigate the difficult task of providing necessary aid to distinct sectors of our economy, we ask that you specifically address the unique nature of nursing associations and professional societies. Without this assistance, we will fail to meet our obligations to our member nurses, and they will find themselves in a position that challenges their livelihood without the education and other services our organizations provide to assist them in their roles.**

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of our nation during this crisis. If you have questions regarding this urgent request please contact Amy M. Kohl, ACNM's Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, at [akohl@acnm.org](mailto:akohl@acnm.org) or (240) 485-1806.

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners