

July 22, 2020

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

Founded in 1896, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIBA or the Big “I”) is the nation’s oldest and largest association of independent insurance agents and brokers, representing more than 25,000 agency locations, 50 state associations and numerous city/county associations under the Trusted Choice brand. Trusted Choice independent agents offer consumers all types of insurance—property, casualty, life, health, employee benefit plans and retirement products—from a variety of insurance companies.

As Congress considers another COVID-19 relief package, the Big “I” strongly urges you to expand eligibility under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to include 501(c)(6) nonprofit associations before many are forced to cease operations. Nonprofit trade and professional associations continue to suffer immense harm from this crisis and have thus far been locked out of Congress’ main rescue vehicle. The 501(c)(6) community has been devastated by sharp membership declines, event cancellations, and reduced programming. Unless Congress acts now to support these vitally important organizations, jobs will be lost and industries will suffer, worsening the drag effect on the national economic recovery.

Trade associations across the country, including the Big “I” and its state and local associations, play an important role to train America’s workforce, create industry and professional standards, and disseminate essential information and resources to people in need – particularly during times of crisis. However, associations now face unprecedented financial losses from event cancellations. Without support, Section 501(c)(6) organizations will be unable to continue to provide the services on which so many rely.

Throughout our nation’s history, nonprofit organizations have helped support and shape our economy’s rise to prominence through the creation of product, service, and ethical standards; workforce development activities for post-collegiate education and skills training; and through the open sharing of ideas at live events around the world, a sector of the economy that generates \$330 billion annually for the U.S. and supports 10.3 million jobs. Furthermore, organizations like the Big “I” and its state and local associations foster local and national volunteerism, especially during times of national crisis.

According to Form 990 data from the Internal Revenue Service and the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, roughly 63,000 nonprofit associations provided approximately \$18.3 billion in wages/salaries in 2019. However, these wages and jobs are at risk without access to the PPP. Congress cannot let such a fundamental economic underpinning wither at the whims of this pandemic. Therefore, the Big “I” urges you, once again, to include access to PPP funding for 501(c)(6) nonprofit associations in your next COVID-19 relief package.

The Big “I” appreciates your consideration of this important issue and your continued support of our country during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Symington, Jr.
SVP, Industry, External & Government Affairs

