

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Minority Leader McCarthy:

Founded in 1896, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA 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.

We write to urge you to include additional, direct emergency support in the next coronavirus aid package for Internal Revenue Code Section (Section) 501(c)(6) organizations, such as trade and professional associations. To help mitigate the coronavirus pandemic’s harmful impact on our sector, we request \$25 billion in aid for associations that face financial losses from cancelled conferences and events; and to include 501(c)(6) organizations in the Paycheck Protection Program or similar Small Business Administration loan expansions.

The Big “I” is extremely grateful the Administration and Congress took swift action to help businesses, nonprofits and millions of Americans withstand the coronavirus pandemic, which jeopardizes our collective livelihood, welfare and safety. Provisions within the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will provide vital support to help stabilize our economy and keep Americans safe. We are especially thankful significant relief is provided to small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program (CARES Act; Section 1102) and the employer payroll tax deferment (Section 2302), among others.

Trade associations across the country, including the Big “I”, 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.

The Big “I” appreciates your consideration of the above priorities and your continued support of our country during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



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