



June 1, 2020

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Young and Bennet:

On behalf of the undersigned charities which represent larger nonprofits with more than 500 employees and tens of millions of volunteers and supporters, we write to express concerns with the RESTART Act that you recently introduced. We are disappointed that this loan program contains terms that disadvantage nonprofits in comparison to for-profit entities. Specifically, mid-sized businesses would have more favorable terms than mid-size charities, including loan forgiveness.

Every day, charities work across the country to provide education and economic opportunities to families in need, assist victims of disaster, and enhance the cultural and spiritual development of individuals and communities. Some of us represent patients with health conditions that increase their risk of developing dangerous complications from COVID-19, and our organizations have been called upon to provide tremendous resources and services during this pandemic. Individuals and communities across the country are relying on the critical services, support, and expertise that charitable nonprofits provide - and our services will be needed even more as the country begins to recover. Yet to date, we have been excluded for access to loans unlike smaller nonprofits through the Paycheck Protection Program or mid-size businesses through the Main Street Lending Program.

Beyond the inherent public good that these charities are providing to families and communities during COVID-19, we are employers with operations affected to the same extent if not more than some for-profit businesses. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nonprofits with more than 500

employees employ 7.7 million people. We are the third largest employer in the economy after manufacturing and retail.

Although there were numerous conversations between your staff and representatives from our organizations and other members of the nonprofit community, as introduced the RESTART Act does not address the needs of the charitable community, our employees, or the people and communities we serve. We ask that you revise the legislation to provide loan-forgiveness parity so that our organizations are not disadvantaged or treated as less worthy of support compared to for-profit entities. We stand ready with legislative text that addresses our concerns.

Our organizations are eager to ensure support can be provided for organizations in our communities and our economy that are providing immediate and long-relief.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Americans for the Arts
Association of Art Museum Directors
Ducks Unlimited
Independent Sector
JDRF
League of American Orchestras
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
PATH