

Population Association of America Association of Population Centers

Office of Government and Public Affairs

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March 18, 2020

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

On behalf of the Population Association of America (PAA) (www.populationassociation.org), I am writing regarding prospective federal intervention to support targeted industries impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. PAA is a small, scientific society that promotes and supports high-quality research on the individual, societal, and environmental implications of population change. As PAA President, an organization significantly affected by the current crisis, I urge you to include associations, nonprofits, and other tax-exempt organizations within any federal aid packages or supplemental appropriations measures, as many have been and will be harmed by event cancellations and reduced meeting attendance as a result of COVID-19.

As you are no doubt aware, the fast-spreading COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the cancellation of dozens of major meetings and events in the U.S. and forced other event sponsors to consider cancelling or postponing innumerable other events dependent on in-person attendance at convention centers, hotels, and other event facilities. The annual PAA meeting, which was to be held in Washington, DC, April 22-25, 2020, is among those many events that had to be cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PAA annual meeting enables population scientists, including demographers, sociologists, and economists, from around the world to share scientific research findings, strengthen interdisciplinary research collaborations, and engage in essential networking opportunities that benefit established and early career investigators alike. Further, the meeting provides a unique forum for federal officials, including representatives from the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, and representatives from the public and private sectors, to interact with scientists and develop public-private partnerships.

The PAA meeting is not only our society's most important scientific gathering. It also accounts for over half of our annual revenue. As a result of canceling our 2020 meeting, PAA anticipates losing almost \$1 million—an amount that will cripple our organization's reserves. We know that canceling our meeting has an adverse ripple effect on the local economy and the nation's hospitality and aviation industries as well. Our annual meeting is part of the larger landscape in which, according to the Events Industry Council's 2018 Economic Significant Study conducted by Oxford Economics, more than 1.9 million meetings occur in the United States each year – with more than 250 million attendees. These meetings contribute more than \$446 billion to U.S. gross domestic product and directly support 5.9 million jobs nationwide. PAA is proud of the positive effect our annual meeting has on the U.S. economy.

Finally, although PAA has a small staff, our operations would be further hampered if any of our employees are forced to take sick leave or are quarantined as a result of COVID-19 interaction. We are aware the White House and Congress are considering measures for small businesses that may require cash flow assistance amid the outbreak, and urge that tax-exempt entities be included in any temporary aid designed to stem the economic fallout resulting from COVID-19.

Thank you for considering our concerns and the hardship that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the PAA. We encourage you to continue working in a bipartisan manner to address the ongoing crisis and to contact us if the PAA and its thousands of members nationwide can assist and support you.

Sincerely,



Eileen Crimmins, Ph.D.
2020 President
Population Association of America

cc: The Honorable Richard Neal
The Honorable Kevin Brady
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray