April 8, 2021

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chairman, Committee on Small Business
United States Senate

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Rand Paul
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business
United States Senate

RE: Please Provide Additional Funds for the Paycheck Protection Program

Dear Chairwoman Velázquez, Chairman Cardin and Ranking Members Luetkemeyer and Paul:

On behalf of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and its membership of more than 48,000 association executives and industry partners representing 7,400 organizations, thank you for your leadership during this challenging time and for extending authorization of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) through May 31, 2021.

As you continue to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact and provide essential support for our country, ASAE respectfully urges you to provide additional funds for the PPP to ensure all eligible and deserving employers can access the program before it expires.

We are extremely grateful to Congress for providing PPP access to nonprofit associations and other 501(c)(6) organizations, as well as to the broader 501(c) sector. ASAE is concerned, however, that PPP funds may run out nearly one and a half months before its authorization expires. Thousands of recently eligible 501(c)(6) associations and other 501(c) nonprofits are still pursuing a first or second-draw loan. New eligibility for 501(c)(6) nonprofits opened amid the 2020 holidays and a subsequent Administration change, leaving several challenging questions regarding implementation unresolved for the first part of our community’s eligibility timeframe.

Initial but long-lasting confusion about eligibility requirements for our community caused significant delays for many deserving applicants – both to complete their paperwork and to receive funds. That said, Congress, the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Department of the Treasury have listened to our concerns regarding PPP eligibility. On March 3, the SBA issued critical guidance to help streamline the application process for our community and others. We greatly appreciate your efforts and understanding.

Securing a first or second-draw loan may still be impossible for much of our community should PPP’s funding deplete in the coming days. Therefore, ASAE requests Congress to appropriate additional funds to ensure that the program can provide loans to all eligible and deserving employers through the May 31, 2021 authorization period.
Thank you for your invaluable service to our country and for your respectful consideration of ASAE’s request to appropriate additional funding for the PPP. If you or your staff have questions, please contact Mary Kate Cunningham, CAE, senior vice president of public policy for ASAE, at mcunningham@asaecenter.org or 202-626-2787.

Sincerely,

Susan Robertson, CAE
President and CEO
American Society of Association Executives

CC:

United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader

United States Senate
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader