



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

April 5, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Thank you for your dedicated leadership to enact policy to help our nation's communities meet the new challenges they are facing. As you look toward building on the CARES Act, I'd like to encourage you to ensure our nation's nonprofits are not left behind during this critical moment.

In this time of crisis, nonprofit organizations like the YMCA are needed now more than ever. Whether it's providing child care for medical staff and other essential workers, distributing grab-and-go meals to kids who normally rely on school breakfasts and lunches, housing those experiencing homelessness or hosting blood drives, Ys are working quickly to respond to the challenges of the coronavirus crisis. Relief for charities must come in the next stimulus package or many nonprofits, like the Y, will not be able to continue to provide vital services during the emergency or to reopen their doors in the future.

Nationwide, 2,640 YMCAs across the country serve 10,000 communities. Each year, the Y serves 8 million youth in a variety of programs that support working families and nurture the development of young people. The Y is the nation's largest nonprofit provider of early childhood and out of school time programs, with:

- 1,415 early learning sites including 185 Head Start/Early Head Start sites serving more than 107,000 infants, toddlers and preschoolers;
- 7,366 afterschool program sites serving more than 431,000 school-aged children; and
- 1,872 summer day camp programs and 266 resident camps serving more than 876,000 young people.

In 2019, the Y served over 22 million meals to over 611,000 youth in families facing food insecurity, and we contribute to helping millions of individuals prevent and control chronic

disease each year through evidence-based health interventions for those living with pre-diabetes, hypertension, arthritis and cancer.

For 170 years the Y has been the heartbeat of many communities. Unfortunately, today the nation's Ys are struggling just like many small businesses and are hard hit by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – and we fear MANY now face the threat of permanent closure. While Congress has been responding to the daily needs of working families to provide large funding expansions for childcare (CCDBG, early learning and Head Start) in recent years, as a nation we face a very real threat that the facilities that are relied upon to provide these critical family support services may soon close. We hope this letter serves as a flashing red light on your dashboard that the Y, along with our many community nonprofit charitable organization partners, needs your help to maintain safety net services with direct support to maintain our operations.

The Y estimates that in April alone Ys will lose \$400 million. If Ys are unable to reopen, our neighbors and our communities will be left without essential resources and services that they rely on.

Despite being forced to close their doors to traditional program and membership activities, many Ys are still on the frontlines, facing the same daily risks as health care workers and first responders, to help their communities by providing essential services during this crisis. For example, as of Friday, April 4, these critical services include:

- 560 YMCAs are providing food for children affected by school closures
- 767 YMCAs are providing emergency child care to essential personnel (i.e. first responders, hospital and health care workers)
- 45 YMCAs are providing wellness checks for seniors and other vulnerable members
- 60 YMCAs are providing shelter and housing for those experiencing homelessness
- 70 YMCAs serve as blood drive sites during this public health crisis
- 2 YMCAs are COVID testing sites

(self-reported data)

This is a crucial moment. Imagine if this all went away. It would be a devastating loss for our communities just when they need us most. And for essential personnel, child care is critical – it's a backbone of the nation's public health infrastructure. Without the emergency child care provided on site at YMCAs right now, parents working in our hospitals and other essential personnel would not be able to work on the frontlines saving lives. As these YMCA emergency child care sites remain open, Ys face additional expenses and insufficient resources to support the necessary measures they must take, including purchasing protective equipment and cleaning supplies, operating for longer hours, paying substitutes, and making staffing adjustments to create small groups that protect children, families and staff.

Therefore, I'm urging you to build on the foundation laid in the CARES Act to provide federal support for the nonprofit organizations working in communities across the country to help the most vulnerable among us. It is imperative that Congress take dramatic and immediate action to support the Y and other nonprofits.

Provisions in the CARES Act were a positive first step in recognizing the needs of nonprofits. However, much more help is needed. While some nonprofits have access to the Payroll Protection Program and Industry Stabilization loans, these vehicles were primarily created to help small businesses and corporate interests, and many are finding it hard to access these

loans. Without help, they will not be able to continue providing the services for which our communities rely on us.

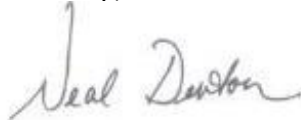
Today, I'm urging you to improve upon the CARES Act so it better serves the charitable sector by:

- Expressly providing \$60 Billion for nonprofits. Congress can address this by infusing additional funds into the Small Business Administration 7(a) Payroll Protection Program and Industry Stabilization loans for the dedicated purpose of supporting nonprofits. In addition, addressing the 500-employee cap on PPP would allow more nonprofits to qualify.
- Providing additional emergency funding to help states waive requirements that self-insured nonprofits repay state Unemployment Insurance trust funds for claims arising from coronavirus-related reasons. The CARES Act provided 50% funding for this purpose, but the remaining 50% liability is devastating in this climate. Nonprofits had the operational capacity to repay unemployment claims in a normal economic environment, but with mandatory shutdowns and extreme reductions in revenue forcing layoffs, the other 50% of this protection from federal funding is a critical need now, especially given that states do not have the capacity to cover this gap.
- Expanding the Universal Charitable Deduction included in the CARES Act by increasing the \$300 limit on charitable donations, allowing donations made this year to be deducted on 2019 tax forms and by extending the deduction past 2020.
- And as Congress looks to strengthen our community response to this crisis, please consider how best to plus-up those grants and other programs that support charitable work in our communities.
- The Save Organizations that Serve America Act (SOS America Act, H.R. 6408), introduced by Representatives Seth Moulton (D-MA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) at the end of March, addresses the provisions in the CARES Act that could be enhanced to support the nation's nonprofits. We'd like to see the provisions in the SOS America Act in the next stimulus relief package.

In addition to providing economic relief to charities, Congress should also address support for nonprofit staff/volunteers currently working on the front lines providing services in our communities. Whether it's bringing food to individuals and families, caring for the children of medical providers and other essential workers or providing medical assistance – our staff are stepping into harm's way to care for our communities.

I understand you are making difficult decisions during this time. I'd like to thank you for your consideration in helping to ensure the Y and the other important institutions in our communities continues to thrive through the current response and our shared recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Neal Denton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Neal Denton