



April 7, 2020

Re: H.R. 6408, Save the Organizations that Serve (SOS) America Act

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal:

On behalf of the Providers' Council – Massachusetts' largest association of health and human services providers – we write to urge you to favorably consider Rep. Seth Moulton's request to help nonprofits in the next round of coronavirus stimulus funding.

We appreciate the House's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; thank you for quickly passing legislation to help businesses and individuals in Massachusetts. But the community-based human services sector – which contains more than 180,000 jobs in the state and cares for one-in-ten Massachusetts residents – needs urgent consideration to ensure the health and well-being of all in the Commonwealth.

Support from the human services sector is needed – now more than ever – yet funding from government becomes more uncertain as this crisis continues. Further, larger human services providers – those employing more than 500 people – were omitted from the CARES Act, and they need assistance. Some of the western Massachusetts human service nonprofits that are excluded are Center for Human Development in Springfield, ServiceNet in Northampton and Berkshire County Arc in Pittsfield to name a few. We ask that you remove the 500-employee cap on provisions to allow:

- All 501(c)(3) nonprofits to be eligible for the SBA loans created in the CARES act; and
- Employees at larger nonprofits to be eligible for the paid sick leave and wage replacement provisions of the CARES act.

Again, thank you for considering H.R. 6408, the *Save the Organizations that Serve (SOS) America Act*. We believe this legislation is critical to helping nonprofits and human services organizations across the country – and particularly here in Massachusetts. If you would like to speak to organizations in your district that this legislation would help, we would be happy to facilitate that discussion and set up a conference call for you and/or your staff.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Weekes
President/CEO
Providers' Council

cc: The Honorable Rep. Seth Moulton