



March 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Assistance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange Community Impacted by New Coronavirus

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

We, the undersigned, represent the wide range of stakeholders who make international educational and cultural exchange in the United States possible. We write to urge that Congress include the international exchange community in any relief measures passed in response to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. International educational and cultural exchange programs are heavily dependent on travel to, from, and within the United States, and on large gatherings of people here and abroad. Because such activities are being curtailed significantly, the exchange community could be devastated.

The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 seeks to strengthen our national security and economy, and enable world peace, through exchange programs. The annual impact from these programs is significant. International students contributed \$44.7 billion dollars to our economy in the 2018. One in three current world leaders today has been on an exchange program to the United States. Moreover, a series of reports on privately funded exchange programs demonstrate that on average 74% of participants have an improved image of the United States after their program and 89% maintain friendships in America after their program ends.

In addition to the personal impact of COVID-19, the economic impact to exchange program sponsors, hosts, and vendors is significant. Last week, the U.S. Department of State suspended all exchange programs for the next 60 days. Given projected challenges associated with COVID-19, the Department may extend the suspension. Study abroad



programs are being discontinued and international student enrollment is projected to decline next year. Privately funded programs are also likely to be impacted even if the suspension is lifted as many host companies, schools, and families may reconsider hosting international participants. Moreover, the vendors that provide insurance, tax preparation, and other services will likely see their revenues decline sharply.

Organizations and companies that sponsor, facilitate, and/or support international educational and cultural exchange programs could be devastated by the consequences associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Without adequate resources, many employees may lose their jobs. Such an impact could affect our foreign policy for many years to come as our ability to promote people-to-people diplomacy is significantly diminished.

We urge you to include the full range of stakeholders in the international educational and cultural exchange community – sponsors, host employers, institutions, families, and vendors – in whatever relief measures Congress enacts to address the impact from COVID-19. Doing so will protect employees and their families, as well as the organizations and companies that support our national security and economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alliance for International Exchange
4-H Camp Ohio, St. Louisville, OH
A Western Rose Motel, Cody, WY
AFS-USA, New York, NY
American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), Stamford, CT
Alliance Abroad Group, Austin, TX
American Cultural Exchange, LLC dba Go Au Pair, Murray, UT
American Hospitality Academy, Summerland Key, FL
American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.
American International Recruitment Council (AIRC), Bethesda, MD
American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers (ASSIST), Suffield, CT
American Work Adventures, Petaluma, CA
American Work Experience, Greenwich, CT
AMIDEAST, Washington, D.C.
Amity Institute, San Diego, CA
Apres Ski, Inc., Winter Park, CO
AquaSafe Pool Management, Inc., Hanover, MD
ASSE - International Student Exchange Programs, Laguna Beach, CA
Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), Durham, NC
Baymont Hotel and Suites, Rapid City, SD



Baymont Hotel and Suites, Grand Forks, ND
Baymont Hotel and Suites, Keystone, SD
BedRock Depot, LLC, Dinosaur, CO
Best Buns, Inc dba Bayside Betsy's Restaurant, Provincetown, MA
Best Buns, Inc dba PTown Scoop, Provincetown, MA
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, Big Sky, MT
BK Holzem Enterprises, Inc., Wisconsin Dells, WI
Blue Spoon, Inc., Winter Park, CO
Boathouse on the Bay, Sister Bay, WI
Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau,
Branson, MO
Brant Lake Camp, Brant Lake, NY
Buck's Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp, New Milford, CT
Camp Augusta, Nevada City, CA
Camp Betsey Cox, Inc., Pittsford, VT
Camp Canadensis, Canadensis, PA
Camp Hilltop, Hancock, NY
Camp Homeward Bound - Coalition for the Homeless, New York, NY
Camp Killooleet, Hancock, VT
Camp Marist, Effingham, NH
Camp Moosilauke, Orford, NH
Camp Nakanawa, Crossville, TN
Camp Netimus for Girls, Milford, PA
Camp Nor'wester, Edmonds, WA
Camp Shohola for Boys, Greeley, PA
Camp Ton-A-Wandah, Hendersonville, NC
Camp Vega, Fayette, ME
Camp Weequahic, Lakewood, PA
Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), Washington, D.C.
Carrollton Inn, Carroll, IA
CCUSA, San Rafael, CA
Cenet, Cape Girardeau, MO
Charlie's Steakhouse, Carroll, IA
CIED Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Comfort Suites, Rapid City, SD
Compass Student Insurance, Princeton, NJ
Council of International Programs USA, Chagrin Falls, OH
Country Store Grocery, Lake City, CO
Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), Alexandria, VA
Cultural Care Au Pair, Cambridge, MA
Cultural Homestay International (CHI), San Rafael, CA
Cultural Vistas, New York, NY



Custer Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, Custer, SD
Custer Hospitality, LLC, Custer, SD
Dairy Queen Mt Rushmore, Keystone, SD
Deep Blue Aquatics, Inc., Fairfax, VA
Dutch Soccer School, Ellicott City, MD
Edgewater Beach Resort, Dennisport, MA
Elitch Gardens Theme & Water Park, Denver, CO
Endless Winter, Inc., Winter Park, CO
EnglishUSA, Marietta, GA
Eno's Pizza & Pub, Keystone, SD
Face the World Foundation, Petaluma, CA
FHI 360, Durham, NC
Gale Force Rentals, Ocean View, DE
George's of Galilee, Narragansett, RI
GeoVisions, New Haven, CT
German American Chamber of Commerce California, Inc., San Diego, CA
Get the Picture Corporation, Hershey, PA
Global Secutive, Princeton, NJ
GreatAuPair, LLC, Austin, TX
Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, Ocean City, MD
Greenheart International, Chicago, IL
Holy Terror Coffee Mt Rushmore, Keystone, SD
Hostelling International USA, Silver Spring, MD
Howard Johnson Hotel, Rapid City, SD
iEARN-USA, New York, NY
Institute of International Education, Washington, D.C.
Integrator, LLC., Winter Park, CO
InterExchange, New York, NY
International Cultural Exchange Organization Inc., Gold River, CA
International Cultural Exchange Services, Inc. (ICES), Henderson, NV
International Culture & Career Exchange (ICCE, Inc.), Los Angeles, CA
International Exchange of North America (IENA), Hackettstown, NJ
International Programs in Agriculture/The Ohio International Intern Program (TOP), Columbus, OH
International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP), Arlington, VA
International Student Exchange, Inc., Bay Shore, NY
International Trainee Network (ITN), Los Angeles, CA
Intrax, San Francisco, CA
IREX, Washington, D.C.
Janus International Hospitality Student Exchange, Ruther Glen, VA
JCG Llc DBA Box Lunch, Provincetown, MA
Jim's Package Store, Oak Bluffs, MA



K Bar S Lodge, Keystone, SD
Kaplan International, Cambridge, MA
King of Rentals, Oak Bluffs, MA
KKC, LLC., Old Forge, NY
KKL, LLC, Old Forge, NY
Knuckleheads FEC LLC, Wisconsin Dells, WI
Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau,
Lake George, NY
LBI Recreation Center, Inc. dba Thundering surf, Beach Haven, NJ
Little Notch Bakery, Inc., Southwest Harbor, ME
Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, MO
Mariner's Arcade, Wildwood, NJ
Mavrik Black Hills Souvenir LLC, Keystone, SD
Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C.
Morey Resorts, Wildwood, NJ
Morey's Piers & Water Parks, Wildwood, NJ
Mount Rushmore Tshirts, Keystone, SD
National Ski Areas Association, Lakewood, CO
Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, Ocean City, MD
Odyssey International Exchange, Los Angeles, CA
Old Forge Properties, LLC, Old Forge, NY
One to World, New York, NY
Palominos, Keystone, SD
Pan American Hotel, Wildwood Crest, NJ
Pan Atlantic Exchanges, Portland, ME
Pan Atlantic Foundation, Portland, ME
Participate Learning, Chapel Hill, NC
PAX Laurasian Exchange, Port Chester, NY
Pierce Camp Birchmont, Inc., Wolfeboro, NH
Pierce Country Day School and Camp, Inc., Roslyn, NY
Pierce Recreation, Roslyn, NY
Pool and Hot Tub Alliance, Alexandria, VA
Popeyes Restaurant, Rapid City, SD
Port Royal Hotel, Wildwood Crest, NJ
Premier Aquatics, Alexandria, VA
Public Diplomacy Council, Washington, D.C.
Quality Inn, Hill City, SD
Ramada Inn, Keystone, SD
Sanborn Western Camps, Florissant, CO
Sand Bar & Grille, Oak Bluffs, MA
Savannah House, Branson, MO
Sawyer's Dairy Bar, Inc., Gilford, NH



Seapointe Village, Wildwood Crest, NJ
Sleep Inn and Suites, Rapid City, SD
Smaller Earth USA, Austin, TX
Smart Staff LLC dba All Friends Student Hub, Ocean City, MD & Wisconsin Dells, WI
Southwestern Advantage, Nashville, TN
Spirit Cultural Exchange, Oak Park, IL
Stretch Cleaning and Restoration, Brant Beach, NJ
Subway, Custer, SD
Subway, Hill City, SD
Subway Mt Rushmore, Keystone, SD
Sunset Pool Management, Inc., Arlington, VA
Taney County Partnership, Branson, MO
The Boardwalk Family of Restaurants, Put-in-Bay, OH
The Forum on Education Abroad, Carlisle, PA
The Legends at The Smokies, Pigeon Forge, TN
The Maplewood School and Camp, Inc., Wantagh, NY
The North-West Passage, San Diego, CA
The Susquehannock Camps, Brackney, PA
Turtle town, Keystone, SD
Turtle town, Hill City, SD
United Work and Travel, a division of APEI, Owings Mills, MD
Vineyard Enterprises, Oak Bluffs, MA
Waterfront Event Center/Waters Edge Grille/Bracco, Arnolds Park, IA
White Birch Village Resort, Boulder Junction, WI
Winkler Pool Management, Inc., Hyattsville, MD
World Heritage International Student Exchange Programs, Laguna Beach, CA
World Learning, Washington, D.C.
World Wide Cultural Exchange, Inc., Valencia, CA
Wyonegonic Camps Inc., Denmark, ME

CC:

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member



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The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
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The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
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The Honorable Eliot Engel
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The Honorable Michael McCaul
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