



April 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Thank you for working to provide economic relief for organizations negatively impacted by COVID-19 pandemic with enactment of the CARES Act, including Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and expanded Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance. We urge Congress to act expeditiously to extend funding for these two programs in order to bolster support for American businesses during these challenging times.

In only a few weeks, the PPP has become a vital resource in countering the devastating economic damage faced by our members representing the international exchange community. For example, an estimated 90% of our members applied for PPP so far, with approximately 35% being approved for relief assistance. For these organizations that sponsor, facilitate and/or support international exchange programs, these loans provide liquidity in a time when operations have been highly impacted by curtailment of travel and gatherings of people.

We urge you to support the full range of stakeholders in the international exchange community by appropriating additional funding for these economic assistance programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilir Zherka".

Ilir Zherka
Executive Director

CC: Members of United States Congress