



March 19, 2020

The Honorable Carol Miller  
U.S. House of Representatives (WV-3)  
1605 Longworth HOB  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Miller,

During the midst of any challenge or crisis for the Mountain State, one of the first sectors to step up and do more is our state's nonprofits of all sizes from all communities.

From the 2016 floods to this COVID-19 pandemic, numerous nonprofit organizations from statewide organizations to local food pantries, homeless centers/services, social service agencies, community foundations, United Ways, and senior services are on the front lines to respond to ever changing needs, ensure the public's safety, and lead recovery and restoration efforts.

While these organizations always step up and give their all during these public, health and economic crises, they are the first to suffer tremendous economic hardships, lay off staff, or even end up closing their doors due to the loss of revenue during chaotic times.

West Virginia's nonprofits employ one out of every nine people in West Virginia's workforce and provide critical services and economic benefit to all fifty-five counties. The loss or financial hardships experienced by these organizations have as great of an impact on our state's workforce and economy as any business would have. As a state, nonprofits matter and need our support during challenging times.

As steps are taken by the federal government and U.S. Congress, our three associations representing over 400 nonprofits in our state (100 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional district) ask for you to include nonprofit organizations (501c3 tax-exempt) of all sizes in any and all economic and financial hardship relief, support, and/or stimulus funds providing support from the U.S. federal government.

West Virginia's nonprofits always go beyond the call of duty when our citizens and communities need them. We as a state and country need to ensure we step up to include them in any economic relief, recovery, and stimulus support in the coming days, weeks, and months ahead. This should include funding for their general operations, loss revenue due to economic downturn, and specific programs/services offered to respond to the pandemic.

Our collective organizations welcome you and your staff to contact us to discuss this request and provide insights for strategy and policy development. Your leadership to ensure their inclusion will truly represent that West Virginia is Almost Heaven to our citizens, nonprofits, businesses, and communities.

Respectfully requested,

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