



December 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

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

We urge you to include the ***Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020*** and the ***Bipartisan State and Local Support and Small Business Protections Act*** in any legislation enacted this session. While these bills do not include all the provisions mission-driven aging services providers need, both address critical needs that must be dealt with immediately. Aging services providers across the continuum of care—nursing homes, home health, assisted living, hospice, home and community-based services providers, and affordable senior housing—need help right away.

We are grateful for the relief Congress has provided over the past nine months, but the crisis is not over. In fact, it is at its worst yet in terms of infections, serious illness, and deaths. As our [Situation Report on COVID and Aging Services](#) shows, there remains significant need for legislative and financial support to address the very real immediate and long-term impact of the pandemic on aging services providers, their employees, and the millions of older people they serve.

Both bipartisan bills address critical funding needs—for testing, vaccine distribution, and PPE—and contain improvements that we support for provider relief and liability protection for our members who have been struggling on the front line to contain this pandemic and keep vulnerable older people healthy and safe, no matter where they live and receive services.

We urge Congress to include both bills in any legislative package under consideration. Time is short and the need is so great. As we noted, the dual packages under consideration don't accomplish everything, but they will go a long way toward saving lives. Thank you for your leadership, which is needed now more than ever to ensure that the most vulnerable people are not abandoned.

Sincerely,

Katie Smith Sloan  
President and CEO LeadingAge  
Acting President and CEO, VNAA/Elevating Home