



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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May 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
The United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

I thank you for all your hard work over these past few weeks to provide much-needed relief for New York individuals and businesses during this period of unprecedented economic and personal crisis. As Congress considers additional relief measures, I urge you to expand relief under the Paycheck Protection Program to include small businesses organized under 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code (“501(c)(6) organizations”). I write on behalf of the New York State Bar Association and our 70,000 members who practice in every area of the law.

I am encouraged that a bi-partisan group of members have co-sponsored the *Local Chamber, Tourism, and 501(c)(6) Protection Act of 2020* which would allow certain small organizations to benefit from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act’s Paycheck Protection Program.

Currently, trade and professional associations that operate as 501(c)(6) organizations are not eligible to apply for grants and loans through the Paycheck Protection Program.

The New York State Bar Association’s (“NYSBA”) mission is to shape the development of law, educate and inform the public, and respond to the demands of our diverse and ever changing legal profession. NYSBA works tirelessly to promote equal access to justice for all. NYSBA’s bylaws require us to promote the public interest on equal footing with the interests of the legal profession. For example, each year New York lawyers provide approximately two-million hours in pro bono legal services to New Yorkers in need. Those pro-bono efforts provide free legal services in order to assist vulnerable people struggling with many legal problems, including those relating to housing, health care, access to programs and benefits, and domestic violence.

Moreover, NYSBA is a key participant in development of New York State’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which govern the professional conduct of lawyers admitted to practice law in the state. Ethical standards and updates on changes in the various substantive areas of the law are core

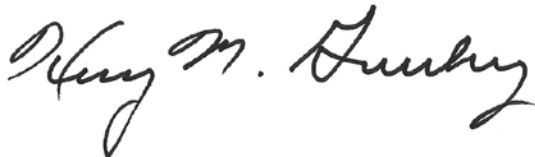
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elements of our Continuing Legal Education programs. NYSBA also operates a lawyer-referral program to assist consumers in need of legal representation, and wellness programs for lawyers and judges in need of assistance in their personal lives.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused significant disruption to in-person meetings and programs run by NYSBA and our 26 Sections and 60 Committees. Like other small businesses, NYSBA and other 501(c)(6) organizations throughout New York State will undoubtedly suffer adverse consequences due to reduced revenues, which will in turn impact many employees and their families.

Including 501(c)(6) organizations as participants in the Paycheck Protection Program would help provide much-needed assistance to an important segment of New York State's and America's economy. Accordingly, I respectfully urge Congress provide relief to small businesses operating as 501(c)(6) organizations by including language in the next stimulus package to grant them eligibility to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "King M. Furber". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

cc: New York Congressional Delegation