



March 21, 2020

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Hispanic Federation is urgently writing you to request that you ensure that nonprofits are **explicitly included in any federal stimulus package related to the current COVID-19 crisis**. Nationally, nonprofits across the country contribute \$10 billion to our Gross Domestic Product and employ over 12 million workers.

Hispanic Federation (HF) is a leading social service and advocacy organization that works with over 150 Latino health and human service agencies to promote the social, political and economic well-being of the Latino community. Founded in 1990 to support Latino communities and institutions in New York City, the Federation has grown into a national organization working in twenty-two states and Puerto Rico.

The importance of our sector to the economic and social well-being of our nation cannot be overstated. Nonprofits employ 12.3 million people, with payrolls exceeding those of most other U.S. industries. The Latino community-based organizations we proudly represent employ tens of thousands of professionals and support staff across America: from social workers and nurses to after-school program staff and day care workers. They serve the most vulnerable populations in our country and keep millions of our residents afloat financially, socially and mentally. Together, we provide families with food and clothing, help people gain skills to become employed, help homeless families find shelter, assist families in obtaining health insurance and maintain healthy lifestyles, and provide countless other services that are heavily relied upon. In short, our nonprofits make our communities stronger not only by providing needed services but also by serving as engines of economic activity.

COVID-19 has radically exposed why it is crucial for our organizations to continue supporting all sectors. Homeless left without shelter will continue the spread; sick family members without insurance, afraid of hospital bills, will continue the spread; people living paycheck to paycheck will not call out of work and continue the spread. Because of guidelines to discourage person-

to-person contact, nonprofits are quickly adapting operations to continue to provide services and once society is able to convene, our organizations will be on the front lines helping people rebuild their lives.

The 2008 Great Recession caused America's nonprofit sector to suffer, especially those smaller nonprofits that are pillars within their communities. In fact, between 2008 and 2010, 13.5% of public charities closed. We must learn from the past and make sure we don't repeat the mistakes of the past. Nonprofits must remain viable; we must survive this in order to ensure American society thrives again.

On behalf of our board, staff, and our network of 150 community-based organizations, we urge you to ensure that any and all economic relief packages include explicit language providing relief to nonprofits so that we are able to obtain the support we need to sustain our crucial operations and grow to meet the inevitable influx of needs brought about by COVID-19. We know that the effects of this pandemic will have long-term unprecedented global consequences, but we commit to remaining on the front lines to guarantee the viability of communities all across our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frankie Miranda".

Frankie Miranda
President
Hispanic Federation