March 19, 2020

The Honorable [NAME]

ADDRESS

Dear [SENATOR LAST NAME]:

As the President and CEO of the [NAME OF YMCA] I urge you to include provisions to ensure the nation’s nonprofits, especially those that provide essential health and human services to families and communities are included in the next economic stimulus package passed by Congress.

I understand that in this challenging time you must make difficult decisions. But I’d like to impress upon you that at this crucial moment, when our communities need us more than ever, nonprofits like the Y are struggling. If you don’t act now, many Ys and our community partners will not be able to continue operations as they have in the past, if at all. This will leave our neighbors and our communities without essential resources and services they rely on.

Nationwide, 2,640 YMCAs across the country serve 10,000 communities. In 2019, the Y served over 22 million meals to over 611,000 youth in families facing food insecurity. The Y is the nation’s largest nonprofit provider of childcare and out of school time programs, with 1,400 early learning sites, 7,360 afterschool program sites, 1,870 summer day camp programs and 266 resident camps. These programs not only give parents and caregivers piece of mind knowing that their children are in a safe place when they go to work but provide children with an enriching environment where they can achieve their fullest potential. And, as the nation’s leading provider of swim lessons and youth sports, the Y is helping youth develop and maintain behaviors that will improve their physical health and learn skills that may one day save their lives.

Ys also contribute to millions of individuals preventing and controlling chronic disease through evidence-based health interventions. Those living with hypertension, arthritis and cancer manage their condition and restore their health through these interventions. And individuals with pre-diabetes are able to avoid conversion to diabetes, one of the leading drivers of health costs in our country. These community-based interventions are an important component to supporting the health system and controlling escalating health care costs.

[Here in our own community… TELL YOUR OWN STORY WITH YOUR OWN STATISTICS]

What would happen if all of that went away? For the sake of our communities, we don’t want to find out. That’s why the Y has joined with other nonprofit organizations around the nation to ask Congress to enact provisions to ensure the long-term health of charitable organizations so they can continue to offer critical services to our communities.

**Please consider an immediate infusion of $60 billion in capital for nonprofits to maintain operations, expand scope to address increasing demands and stabilize losses from closures throughout the country.**Below are specific recommendations for assistance to help the nonprofit sector stay engaged serving the American people.

As 10% of U.S.GDP, we employ 12 million workers. We need to retain them.

* Nonprofits are on the frontlines serving people, especially those in need. We need business continuity relief.
* Give nonprofit payroll tax credit relief as this is the most significant tax we pay.
* Provide an “above-the-line” or universal charitable deduction for contributions through the end of 2021.

I’ve attached the letter that was sent to congressional leaders that outlines policy solutions to accomplish the goals above. I’m available to speak with you directly if you or someone on your staff would like to learn more about the impact of the COVID-19 situation on our Y.

Sincerely,

NAME/TITLE