

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

On behalf of the members of the American Ambulance Association (AAA), I thank you for your pivotal role in the negotiations on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act or "CARES Act" (H.R. 748) and, in particular, the provision on the Paycheck Protection Program.

Ambulance service organizations and their paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are on the front lines of providing lifesaving treatment, transport and testing of patients with the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In communities across America, patients rely on our 24 hour a day immediate response to every call for help regardless of ability to pay.

The response to COVID-19 has increased the costs of providing vital ambulance services as our members pay for employee overtime, additional personal protection equipment (PPE) and other expenses directly related to combating the virus. While costs have increased, revenue has decreased as Americans are reluctant to call 9-1-1 for non-COVID-19 medical emergencies and as hospitals cancel elective surgeries and any related medically necessary transports of patients.

Our members find themselves in a difficult position right now as they must maintain current staffing levels to handle, or prepare for, the surge of COVID-19 patients but are stretched to find the funds for payroll. Ambulance service organizations generally operate on extremely small budget margins and limited financial reserves due to the lack of adequate reimbursement. The Paycheck Protection Program will be a potential lifeline to many of our members which are predominately small public, non-profit or private ambulance agencies and companies which would struggle to repay the loan.

Not all ambulance service organizations would be helped though by the Paycheck Protection Program. We have members with more than 500 employees who are facing the same financial challenges with COVID-19 as our smaller members. Ambulance service organizations, similar to hotels and restaurants, often have operations in multiple locations around a geographical area to serve those communities with critical emergency and non-emergency medical services.

While they may employ 500 or more individuals, their employees are spread across multiple locations. Ambulance service organizations regardless of their size are struggling with the economic fallout from the coronavirus restrictions.

I respectfully request that you use your discretionary authority as Secretary of the Treasury to permit loans secured by ambulance service organizations with more than 500 employees to be forgiven consistent with the terms of the Paycheck Protection Program.

Please do not hesitate to have a member of your staff reach out to Tristan North at (202) 902-9025 if you have any questions regarding this request.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Reinert', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Aarron Reinert
President
American Ambulance Association

About the American Ambulance Association

The AAA is the primary association for ground ambulance service suppliers/providers, including governmental entities, volunteer services, private for-profit, private not-for-profit, and hospital-based ambulance services. Our members provide emergency and non-emergency medical transportation services to more than 75 percent of the U.S. population. AAA members serve patients in all 50 states and provide services in urban, rural, and super-rural areas. As the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration identified in its 2013 report on emergency services, EMS-only systems – such as our members – provide the vast majority of emergency ambulance services throughout America.