



Serving Nonprofits. Strengthening West Virginia.

May 5, 2020

Dear Senators Manchin and Capito,

I write to ask Senators Manchin and Capito to join Senators Lankford and King on a letter to Senate Leadership requesting that charitable nonprofits on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response effort receive critical relief in any future coronavirus legislation. The West Virginia Nonprofit Association is well aware of the many challenges charitable nonprofits in our state are confronting as they struggle to maintain operations and advance their missions during this health and economic crisis. Nonprofits are not sitting idly waiting for the pandemic to pass; they are working every day to care for our residents; to provide food, shelter, hope, and more to individuals and families in need; and to prepare for the future. Many would be hiring additional employees to address growing demand for their services if they had the resources to do so.

The CARES Act has provided relief for many, but much more is needed to protect and help rebuild lives and livelihoods. Charitable nonprofits are essential partners with business and government in leading us out of this crisis. The letter Senators Lankford and King authored urges Leaders to include provisions in the next coronavirus legislation to expand nonprofit access to financial relief and support, increase unemployment reimbursement for nonprofits, and expand charitable giving incentives. The letter tracks the nonprofit policy priorities identified in the [Nonprofit Community Letter](#) (Logo Letter) that we've previously shared with your office. It would mean a great deal to WV's 10,400+ nonprofits if Senators Manchin and Capito would join Senators Lankford and King in expressing strong support for the vital work of charitable organizations.

The **deadline to sign the letter is COB Tuesday, May 5th**. Please contact Kevin Kincheloe with Sen. Lankford (kevin_kincheloe@lankford.senate.gov) or Alex Porter with Sen. King (alex_porter@king.senate.gov) if you would like to sign on or have any questions.

Text of Lankford/King Letter

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

Charitable nonprofits are significant employers ready to serve. The 12 million people working for America's charities are the backbone of our communities: the food banks, shelters, domestic violence services, houses of worship, early care and education centers, after-school facilities, and more that are being called on to feed, house and care for people whose lives have been disrupted by sickness, closures, and job loss. Cities and states are relying on nonprofits to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic. We will continue to rely on the experience, expertise and ingenuity of the sector during future recovery efforts. As we work to build on the CARES Act in the next relief package, we cannot overlook the needs of these community-based institutions and must

ensure that charitable nonprofits are fully supported in their service on the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

Specifically, we urge you to include the following clarifications and provisions in the next relief package:

1. **Expand Nonprofit Access to Relief and Support**: Expand the eligibility for nonprofits to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program by modifying the current 500-employee cap or by other means. Adjust Economic Stabilization Fund or other mechanisms to implement programs to support nonprofit employers with between 500 and 10,000 employees. Provide clear guidance and maximum flexibility to private lenders to prioritize processing the applications of charitable nonprofits.
2. **Increase Unemployment Insurance Reimbursement**: Treat self-funded nonprofits fairly by increasing the federal unemployment insurance reimbursement for self-funded nonprofits to 100% of costs. As currently written Section 2103 of the CARES Act will subject nonprofits throughout the country to crippling payments to their state unemployment systems later this year, while other employers will likely experience little or no additional costs resulting from mass COVID-19-related layoffs. The impacts will be real. States will be greatly challenged to distinguish among employers in an already overburdened system due to the unprecedented surge in new applicants. Many nonprofits will be hit with a bill for reimbursement to states at a time when they will be in the highest demand for providing services. This could actually inhibit nonprofits' ability to perform.
3. **Strengthen Charitable Giving Incentives**: Encourage donations to the work of charitable organizations in their communities by enabling taxpayers making donations on and after March 13 (date of national emergency declaration) and before July 16 to claim the deductions on their 2019 tax filings. This retroactive application should apply to itemized and above-the-line deductions during this critical period to encourage an influx of donations when these nonprofits need them most. Also, enhance the Above-the-Line Deduction in the CARES Act by increasing the \$300/person cap and extending the effective date of the incentive.

On behalf of the nonprofit charities in each of our districts providing critical services to our constituents, we appreciate your attention to this request and believe that the inclusion of these provisions will directly help charitable nonprofits respond to the fallout from this pandemic and will continue to serve our communities in the aftermath. We appreciate your consideration and attention to this request.

Sincerely,

JAMES LANKFORD
United States Senator
Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States



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Thank you for your continued leadership during this crisis. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions on any of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tasha Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tasha Anderson, PhD
WVNPA Executive Director
tasha@wvnpa.org