

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
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HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
AND INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

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March 20, 2020

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell S.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart S.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, THE CAPITOL
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

I write to urge U.S. House of Representatives and Senate leadership to include, in any final coronavirus aid package, support for nonprofit and religious institutions who are working to assist our communities in this time of crisis.

As you are all aware, the coronavirus (COVID-19) is gripping every facet of our country. As of today, there are over 14,000 cases of COVID-19 and over 200 deaths within the United States. The World Health Organization has reported that health systems “are collapsing under the pressure of too many cases” as health workers in our country are fashioning makeshift personal protection equipment. National reports indicate that food banks in vulnerable communities are at risk, which is consistent with reports I am hearing within my district. This virus is provoking a disproportional strain on our anchor institutions including places of worship and nonprofit aid organizations.

Religious institutions and other nonprofits are among those on the front lines protecting the most vulnerable segments of our communities—offering aid and comfort to all of our constituents during this time of crisis. Further, they make up approximately 10 percent of our gross domestic product and employ approximately 12 million workers. Their continued commercial engagement will be vital to weathering the economic storm. If the previous financial crisis is any indicator of how nonprofits and religious institutions will fare, there is good reason for concern. According to reporting from the National Council of Nonprofits and Nonprofit Financial Fund, during the 2008 financial crisis, increased demand for services accompanied escalating operating costs and decreasing revenues. Reports indicate that small and midsized religious institutions and

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nonprofits suffered the worst of the crisis, much like our small and midsize businesses are anticipated to suffer during this crisis.

I would urge you all, as you work to finalize a thoughtful and comprehensive package, to include sufficient support to religious institutions and nonprofits so they may continue to meet their call to service within our communities. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emanuel Cleaver, II", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

CC:

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
House Majority Whip James Clyburn
Senate Majority Whip John Thune
House Minority Whip Steve Scalise
Senate Minority Whip Richard Durbin
