

August 6, 2020

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

The Honorable Mark Meadows
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Sec. Mnuchin and Chief of Staff Meadows:

On behalf of the undersigned groups representing millions of employees and many millions more customers, we urge you to include a “healthy workplace” tax credit in the next federal stimulus package to protect the safety of workers, customers, and the public. Such a tax credit should be targeted, temporary, and available to business entities and nonprofits. Businesses and nonprofits have and will continue to spend an enormous amount to ensure that workplaces are as safe and healthy for workers and customers as possible.

There is already bipartisan and bicameral support to create such a tax credit. A “safe and healthy workplace tax credit” is part of Senate Republican’s Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools Act (HEALS Act) and similar bills have been introduced with bipartisan sponsors in the House and Senate. These proposals recognize the enormous unexpected costs of creating and maintaining healthy spaces for workers and customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is significant research demonstrating the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19 can survive on surfaces; proper cleaning and disinfection can help to reduce risks from the virus that has to date, infected more than four million Americans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, state and local guidance, as well as industry best practices related to reopening safely all focus on requiring a combination of properly cleaning and disinfecting these spaces, personal hygiene practices, utilizing personal protective equipment (PPE), screening and testing workers when necessary, and following social distancing as appropriate to protect workers and customers.

ISSA–The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association [estimates an additional \\$56,160 in cleaning-related costs for a general 3,000 square foot retail space](#). This is in addition to the costs of PPE, testing, employee training, and other important COVID-19-related expenses.

This tax credit is essential in helping our economy reopen safely and restoring confidence with workers, customers, and the American public. According to the International Council of Shopping Centers, “Sixty-six percent of consumers said that when they do return to stores, they’re interested in seeing frequent cleaning/sanitizing, while 62 percent are interested in seeing more hand sanitizer and disinfecting cloths, 49 percent in staff wearing masks and/or gloves, and 48 percent in measures facilitating social distancing”.

A tax credit would ensure that businesses and nonprofits already struggling financially can cover a portion of these critical, yet unexpected expenses related to COVID-19.

We respectfully request that you consider the following recommendations as you evaluate and hopefully include a reopening tax credit in the next stimulus bill.

Qualified expenses should include:

1. Cleaning and workplace safety-related costs, including cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing-related products; equipment; delivery/dispensing devices and systems; signage; and technology platforms or services related to preventing the spread of COVID-19
2. Training, consulting, standards, certifications, auditing/quality control, monitoring, and guidelines or other similar information related to COVID-19
3. Personal protective equipment
4. Technology used for limiting or tracing and tracking physical contact between customers and employees in the United States and improving workplace safety and hygiene
5. Other expenditures associated with maintaining a healthy physical workplace such as reconfigurations, including those necessary to comply with federal, state, and local guidelines, as well as industry best practices

We stand ready to provide resources and work with your offices to develop policies to help protect against the future transmission of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration of this suggested provision for inclusion in the next stimulus package. We believe a healthy workplace tax credit is critical to the safety of Americans as businesses re-open and workers return to their jobs. The proposal will also prepare workplaces to better deal with future emerging pathogens that we could be confronted with in the future.

Respectfully,

Academy of General Dentistry
American Car Rental Association
American Society of Association Executives
American Hotel and Lodging Association
Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Building Owners and Managers Association International
Building Service Contractors Association International
FMI – The Food Industry Association
Go LIVE Together
Household & Commercial Products Association
Independent Office Products & Furniture Dealers Association
International Association of Exhibitions and Events
International Council of Shopping Centers
International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association
International Franchise Association
International Safety Equipment Association
ISSA – The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
NACS

National Association of Theatre Owners
National Association of Truckstop Operators
National Council of Nonprofits
National Grocers Association
National Independent Venue Association
National Office Products Alliance
National Pest Management Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Small Business Association
Natural Products Association
North American Meat Institute
Office Furniture Dealers Alliance
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Professional Beauty Association
Real Estate Roundtable
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Society of Independent Show Organizers
The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association
U.S. Travel Association
Virginia Small Business Partnership