March 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Potential Aid for Industries Impacted by Coronavirus

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

On behalf of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), I write regarding prospective federal assistance to support industries impacted by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic.

AVMA is the nation's leading representative of the veterinary profession, speaking for more than 95,000 member veterinarians across the United States who care passionately about protecting animal health, animal welfare, and human health. Informed by its members' unique scientific training and knowledge, the AVMA advocates for policies that advance the practice of veterinary medicine and support the crucial work of veterinarians nationwide.

Veterinarians play a critical role in safeguarding not only the nation’s animal health, but also its public health. In fact, veterinary researchers are among those currently working to develop a vaccine to protect people against COVID-19.

We are very appreciative that Congress and the Administration are considering federal aid packages and supplemental appropriations measures to mitigate economic harm to associations, small businesses, and employees resulting from COVID-19. A significant number of AVMA member-veterinarians are small business owners and are working hard to prepare for any number of disruptions due to COVID-19.

As you are aware, many associations and businesses could be greatly impacted if employees are forced to take sick leave or quarantined as a result of COVID-19 interaction. In addition to concerns about business disruptions and access to paid leave, the veterinary community is working with federal officials to mitigate the impacts of potential drug and other medical supply shortages on veterinary practices.
AVMA continues to work hard to provide timely information and guidance to member veterinarians as the outbreak unfolds. We expect that veterinarians will continue to play a major constructive role in fighting the outbreak. Thank you again for working to stem the economic fallout resulting from COVID-19. As you do so, we appreciate your consideration of the needs of associations, small businesses, and employees.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Kent McClure, AVMA’s Chief Government Relations Officer, at kmclure@avma.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet D. Donlin
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer
American Veterinary Medical Association

CC:

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, House Committee on Ways & Means
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways & Means
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations