



Senate Passes Financial Relief Bill (4/21)

House Vote Expected Thursday

Tuesday evening, the U.S. Senate passed the **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act**. Our deep thanks for your continued advocacy efforts on Congress' continuing emergency relief packages during this time of crisis. We fully realize what a difference those efforts are making, and continue to hear from both Senate and House offices the impact your actions are making.

We are glad that this legislation passed by the Senate today, expected to be voted on by House members this coming Thursday, included forgivable loans for small businesses, including nonprofit health and human services providers with fewer than 500 employees. However, we remain gravely concerned that lawmakers have not yet included nonprofit organizations with greater than 500 employees in their relief legislation, which we continue to advocate for daily.

We will be communicating to Senate and House lawmakers that while this most recent legislation is helpful in that it builds on the previous funding provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, **additional support for nonprofit health and human services organizations whose workers are on the frontlines caring for so many people in communities throughout America is increasingly needed, and will be imperative to include in subsequent legislation.**

More specifically, we will continue to call on all lawmakers to support and protect their constituents by including the following measures in their next bill(s) to provide coronavirus-related relief related to:

- Access to financial relief for health and human services nonprofits with over 500 employees via forgivable loans, modeled on the Paycheck Protection Program
- Targeted financial resources for nonprofit frontline health and human services providers via a new \$100 billion grant program to cover unreimbursed expenses attributable to the coronavirus public health emergency
- 100% reimbursement of the cost of unemployment insurance benefits paid by nonprofits who self-fund these benefits
- \$2 billion in additional funding for vulnerable youth and children through The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and Title IV-E Chafee funds

Finally, we have reminded lawmakers that our 300+ Lutheran health and human services organizations are on the frontlines fighting COVID-19 in over 1,400 communities in 46 states. We have emphasized with them how all of you are seeing firsthand how people's lives throughout our nation are depending on emergency relief and support during this crisis. Your voices continue to play an enormous role in these efforts and in progress made so far. Know that we will continue to strongly advocate each day for these items as Priority #1 as we move forward.

For further information, please contact Sarah Dobson, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, at sdobson@lutheranservices.org or 202-499-5832.

Lutheran Services in America is the national network of Lutheran social ministry organizations—connecting over 300 health and human services nonprofit service providers located throughout the country. Recognized by The Chronicle of Philanthropy and Forbes as one of the nation's largest nonprofits, the Lutheran Services in America network operates with more than \$22 billion in annual revenue and over 250,000 member employees. Together, the network lifts up the nation's most vulnerable people from children to seniors — making a difference in the lives of one in 50 Americans every year.



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