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

Members of the U.S. Events & Entertainment Coalition are behind nearly all large live events for entertainment, sports and other activities. The Coalition is made up of a diverse group of companies and organizations from the interconnected mass participation events industry. We are the arenas, stadiums, theaters, convention centers, race operators and fairgrounds. We are the promoters and producers of live entertainment, everything from concert tours to Broadway musicals to touring family shows to marathons. We are the numerous businesses and workers who support all of the above; everything from performers to stagehands to venue managers to maintenance to suppliers and security. We are a force multiplier in communities, large and small, across the nation, driving tourism and helping to fill restaurants, hotels and retail establishments. As an industry we generate hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity and millions of jobs. Until now.

Government actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic halted all live events and public gatherings, including entertainment, sporting events, competitions and conferences. Our businesses were the first to close and will be the last to reopen. The nationwide impact on our industry, and our workers, has been and will continue to be catastrophic. Most of us have ceased active operations and collectively, we have been forced to lay off or furlough hundreds of thousands of employees. Yet the relief measures put in place to date by Congress and the Administration are for the most part inaccessible or inadequate to address both the short and long-term challenges we face as an industry.

Our industry will continue to be disproportionately impacted, since restrictions and limitations on public gatherings will remain for an extended period. While we are committed to preserving our workforce to the extent possible, it will take much longer for our sector to fully resume business once the immediate public health emergency has passed. To continue to exist as meaningful employers, we need assistance from the federal government that accounts for the unprecedented and devastating and ongoing impacts on our entire industry.
**US EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT COALITION**

**Relief Needed**

**Targeted Financial Assistance** – The current Paycheck Protection Program and other small business relief programs are of limited benefit to our industry. Most companies are not eligible due to size or other restrictions. Those organizations that do qualify are not readily able to meet requirements premised on an immediate return to full operating capacity or have experienced disruptions that far exceed the available support. Similarly, other loan programs are of little value to companies that have already lost many of their employees and face an extended road before being able to reopen meaningfully. Reopening costs for our sector will be significant as we prepare to safely host events and social distancing requirements will result in reduced capacity, diminishing the economics of this sector for the foreseeable future.

**Tax Credits and Deductions** - In addition to direct financial assistance focused income and payroll tax credits could help address some of our industry’s pandemic related losses and costs. At the same time providing temporary tax deductions for businesses and individuals could help facilitate and encourage a return of the public to larger events when safe to do so.

**Best Practices for Group Events and Entertainment** – Reopening of venues for events and entertainment will require new and enhanced procedures for cleaning and sanitization, crowd management, seating plans and health monitoring. We are currently working on industry-led standards. The CDC and DHS should work with our industry leaders and experts to develop these voluntary guidelines and ‘best practices’ that can be implemented by venues, tailored for each specific site and business. It will also give the public confidence to attend large events again.

We stand ready to work with you as Congress continues to develop further measures to address the challenges and burdens presented by this worldwide pandemic. With your help we also look forward to the time when we can once again host Americans all over the country at our events.

Association of Performance Arts Professionals  
The Broadway League  
Endurance Sports Coalition  
Exhibition Services & Contractors Association (ESCA)  
FELD Entertainment  
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)  
International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE)  
International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)  
International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM)  
Live Nation  
National Association of Theater Owners (NATO)  
Stadium Managers Coalition (SMA)