



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
SENATE REPUBLICAN OFFICES

July 30, 2020

Governor Ned Lamont
Office of the Governor
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

We are writing to urge you to reconsider your administration's decision to preclude any nonprofit provider that received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) grant from receiving any Coronavirus Relief Funds. The recent announcement of Connecticut's decision to implement this policy shift, after funds have already been promised to certain nonprofits, has pulled the rug out from under our frontline workers. The policy should be reversed.

This policy penalizes the very same people we all recognize are heroes, simply because they received unrelated federal funding that their organizations were entitled to in order to hold them over and pay for unrelated expenses. In addition, it is our understanding that because the Department of Developmental Services has already been paying providers without regard to PPP funding prior to this directive, DDS has indicated that they will be recouping funding already promised to nonprofits through a cost settlement process, clawing back funds many nonprofits have already budgeted for and are counting on to pay for vital supplies and personal protective equipment – all items not covered by the PPP grants.

The PPP grants were designed to help small businesses and nonprofits keep employees on payroll, holding them over for a short period of time and avoiding unemployment. For many nonprofit providers, it enabled them to keep workers employed during the height of the pandemic here in Connecticut where they performed frontline work protecting and helping people most in need. The Paycheck Protection Program was never intended to be a be-all end-all relief program. Especially for nonprofit providers, which have extremely high expenses related to the pandemic and the costs of personal protective equipment not covered by PPP grants, additional relief was always needed to help them afford these lifesaving items and cover other costs. Federal funding has been made available, and they are entitled to receive assistance.


Your administration's new policy not only penalizes nonprofit providers and frontline workers for doing everything right, it also breaks promises made to provide additional funding. Many nonprofits were notified by the state of anticipated Coronavirus Relief Funds they were expected to receive. They used those numbers provided by the state to budget for expensive items such as telehealth equipment, temperature taking equipment, PPE supplies and renovations to make their facilities that provide essential services comply with social distancing requirements. To backtrack and deny the funds these nonprofits were counting on leaves them vulnerable and struggling.

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Nonprofit providers in Connecticut provide vital health care services, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and domestic violence services. They feed families in need and provide shelter. Their employees are heroes who have risen to the challenge of continuing to care for people during a pandemic. The new policy announced by your administration is a short-sighted blow to the organizations that protect the most vulnerable.

We urge you to closely examine the consequences this policy will have on Connecticut's nonprofit providers and reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,



Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader



Kevin Witkos
Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore



Craig Miner
Deputy Senate Republican Leader



Eric Berthel
Assistant Senate Republican Leader



Gennaro Bizzarro
Senate Republican Whip



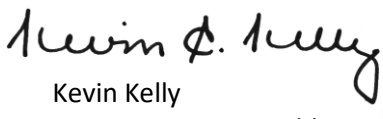
Dan Champagne
Senate Republican Whip



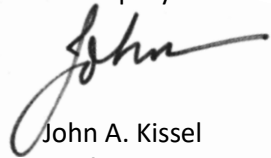
Paul Formica
Deputy Senate Republican Leader



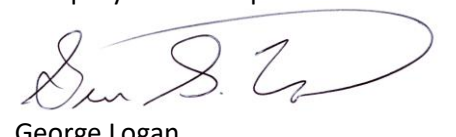
Tony Hwang
Deputy Senate Republican Leader



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Rob Sampson
Senate Republican Whip



Heather Somers
Assistant Senate Republican Leader

cc: Paul Mounds, Chief of Staff