

May 21, 2020

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

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Chairman, Senate Small Business
and Entrepreneurship Committee
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Sent electronically to: phil_maxson@mccconnell.senate.gov;
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meredith_west@sbc.senate.gov; sean_moore@sbc.senate.gov

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Rubio, and Cardin:

On behalf of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG), we appreciate your monumental efforts to provide financial support for our economy, including the support for our clinics and healthcare providers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provided much needed financial support for small businesses and 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations. However, as you consider the next legislative package to address new and continuing economic and medical concerns related to COVID-19, we urge you to include emergency financial support for 501(c)(6) tax-exempt medical specialty societies adversely impacted by this pandemic.

ACMG is the only nationally recognized medical professional organization solely dedicated to improving health through the practice of medical genetics and genomics, and the only medical specialty society in the US that represents the full spectrum of medical genetics disciplines in a single organization. ACMG is the largest membership organization specifically for medical geneticists, providing education,

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resources, and a voice for more than 2,400 clinical and laboratory geneticists, genetic counselors, and other healthcare professionals, nearly 80% of whom are board certified in the medical genetics specialties. ACMG's mission is to improve health through the clinical and laboratory practice of medical genetics as well as through advocacy, education and clinical research, and to guide the safe and effective integration of genetics and genomics into all of medicine and healthcare, resulting in improved personal and public health.

As a professional medical specialty society, ACMG is a registered 501(c)(6) tax-exempt organization. Part of our organization's success is dependent upon support from the ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine which supports ACMG's education and public health programs using charitable gifts from corporations, foundations, and individuals. However, we also rely heavily on revenue generated directly by ACMG scientific meetings. Most notable is our Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting which emphasizes research and clinical topics that promote the science and the practice of clinical genetics and genomics. Each year the Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting is attended by thousands of healthcare professionals, many of whom rely on the meeting for their certified education credits required to maintain their board certifications.

Unfortunately, this year our Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting, originally scheduled to begin on March 17th, had to be canceled due the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only does cancelation of the meeting mean a significant loss in revenue needed to support our ongoing activities and obligations and pay salaries throughout the year, but it also means a financial loss from money invested in preparing for the meeting and down payments on service contracts that may not be fully refundable. Cancelation of scientific meetings is just one of the many ways in which 501(c)(6) medical specialty societies like ACMG are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous other organizations have already experienced this same set-back.

Like many other medical specialty societies, ACMG is a small nonprofit and does not have the luxury of large savings and investments to support major financial losses. Notable federal assistance programs provided by the CARES Act, such as the Paycheck Protection Program, were only eligible to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organizations. Medical specialty societies play a critical and necessary role in health and medicine regardless of whether they qualify as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) tax-exempt organization. As such, we urge you to include emergency financial support for 501(c)(6) tax-exempt medical specialty societies who have been adversely

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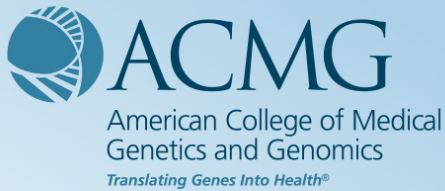
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impacted by the current pandemic so we can continue to support healthcare professionals in our respective medical specialties and the patients they serve.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Gregg, MD, MBA, FACOG, FACMG
President
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

Maximilian Muenke, MD, FACMG
Chief Executive Officer
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

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