

Wendy Bury
Executive Director
P.O. Box 95
New London, CT 06320

May 19, 2020

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0703

Dear Senator Murphy:

The nation's museum community, while grateful for recent economic relief efforts, is facing an existential threat from the closures required to address the COVID-19 pandemic that requires major responses from the U.S. Congress beyond those contained in recent legislation. As you develop Phase 4 COVID-19 relief legislation, we urge you to sign on to the letter being circulated by Senator Cory Booker urging at least \$2 billion for the Institute for Museums and Library Services to administer for nonprofit museums in COVID-19 economic relief legislation to provide emergency assistance through the end of 2020 (to sign on, please contact Michael_Rady@Booker.Senate.gov), and:

- Extend the Paycheck Protection Program and loan forgiveness through December 2020, and make nonprofits, including museums, with greater than 500 employees eligible for loan forgiveness. In addition, adjust the Economic Stabilization Fund or other mid-size loan programs to support nonprofit employers with between 500 and 10,000 employees, including loan-forgiveness.
- Expand the universal charitable deduction provision in the CARES Act by removing the \$300 cap and extend the CARES Act removal of the 60% limit on Adjusted Gross Income that may be deducted through charitable gifts of cash.

Museums are vital economic engines, contributing \$50 billion a year to the U.S. economy and generating \$12 billion in tax revenue to local, state, and federal governments. Museums are also job providers, supporting 726,000 jobs annually.

Again, I urge you to include nonprofit museums in Phase 4 COVID-19 economic relief. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bury

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Executive Director
P.O. Box 95
New London, CT 06320

May 19, 2020

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate

706 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

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