

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

I write today on behalf of the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) to thank you for your rapid response to the unfolding public health, economic and financial crisis caused by the pandemic of the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”). As you continue to draft an interim stimulus package, please allow our member laboratories, who perform cannabis testing and are only ancillary to its industry, access to Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. This current lack of access has caused our members significant financial hardship.

As you know, the CARES Act barred “direct” and “indirect” cannabis businesses from obtaining loans and defined an indirect business as one that “derived any of its gross revenue for the previous year” from sales to direct cannabis companies. However, because our members also perform federal legal activities such as food, environmental, and hemp testing as well, they are needed to safeguard the American public from other public health crises. Many of these laboratories have polymerase chain reaction (PCR) instruments and the required biosafety levels to perform COVID -19 antibody and surface testing, making them critical future contributors to the nation's testing capacity.

The ACIL is an association representing independent commercial scientific and engineering firms with over 1,000 facilities across the U.S. engaged in testing, product certification, consulting, and research and development to enhance public health and safety. ACIL members have taken steps to maintain their operations, conduct testing and monitoring functions during this national crisis. They are accredited, periodically inspected laboratories that have high level quality management systems in-place to ensure that we generate quality data and have demonstrated a long history of operating in a professional manner.

As you move forward with the interim stimulus package, we urge your consideration of including laboratories that perform cannabis testing access to additional funding for SBA Programs.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding the importance of the testing industry during this COVID-19 pandemic. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Bright
Chief Operating Officer

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES