Title: National Governor’s Association: “Thank You for Protecting the Nation’s Most Vulnerable Populations”

The National Governor’s Association (NGA) deserves an emphatic applause for their leadership on the ground in our communities and for their continued support during this critical time. The entire nonprofit universe has been upended, and through the diligent work of each and every governor in the United States, nonprofits are in a better position to see our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our governors have acted swiftly to address the critical needs of the nonprofits that serve their citizens. Through their unwavering support, nonprofit organizations, like Easterseals, can continue providing life-saving services and programs to our nation’s most vulnerable populations.

Nonprofit organizations are an essential element of America’s vibrant healthcare landscape. The states’ governors worked side-by-side with their respective state leaders to identify challenges, staying ahead of the curve and offering solutions to help our communities recover during this unprecedented time. Through shared best practices, informed voices and innovative solutions, all Americans – including those whose lives depend on daily support from our nation’s nonprofits – are now able to have their needs met through this perilous public health emergency.

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) will authorize $2 trillion in aid to support businesses, hospitals, schools and social support programs, such as Easterseals, which provides critical community-based services and supports to the one in four Americans who live with disability. With the boots-on-the-ground support from our governors, the CARES Act will help to ensure the future viability of our nation’s nonprofits.

We applaud the following legislative strategies and interventions that will support nonprofits for the duration of the public health emergency:

* **Emergency Small Business Loans**
* **Economic Injury Disaster Loans**
* **Charitable Giving Incentive**
* **Employee Retention Payroll Tax Credit**
* **Industry Stabilization Fund**
* **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

Victories like these are what makes America the greatest nation on Earth. Thank you, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, for leading a renowned and leader-oriented organization that puts the people’s needs top-of-mind. Your work is more meaningful and more appreciated than you know.

Thank you,

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