



May 27, 2020

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act

Dear Senator Rubio:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), the professional organization that represents more than 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) in the United States, I would like to thank you for introducing the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act (S 3833), which would provide a number of necessary reforms to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). These reforms would include extension of the loan forgiveness period from eight to 16 weeks in order to extend the “safe harbor” provision for employers to rehire their employees, and the ability for non-payroll PPP funds to be used for expenses related to personal protective equipment (PPE) and compliance with other federally-regulated health and safety measures.

OMSs are the surgical specialists of dentistry who have played a crucial role in treating patients with dental emergencies in private facilities and keeping them away from hospital emergency rooms during the COVID-19 pandemic. OMSs across the country are beginning to reopen their practices after closing completely or limiting their practice to emergency-only dental care during the pandemic. In order to protect patients, their staff and themselves from the spread of COVID-19, OMSs are implementing enhanced infection control safeguards as called for in the updated CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response¹. Furthermore, many OMS procedures generate aerosols – which can increase the risk of virus transmission – making additional infection control measures and PPE essential. The cost of these health and safety efforts will have a considerable economic impact on their businesses. By providing flexibility in how PPP loan proceeds are utilized, your legislation will help OMSs mitigate the increased costs of PPE that will be required to safely return to providing care to patients while also protecting themselves and employees.

PPP loans have been a critical lifeline for many OMS practices during this time of financial uncertainty and afforded them the ability to retain or rehire their personnel before their practices operate at full capacity. With states just now allowing OMS offices to perform non-emergent procedures, many OMS

¹ [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#), May 19, 2020

offices will be unable to take full advantage of loan forgiveness offered through the PPP without an extension beyond the eight-week period for expenses incurred as well as an extension of the rehire period as provided by S 3833.

While we appreciate Congress' efforts to swiftly implement the PPP program to provide critical assistance to small businesses at the onset of the pandemic, we thank you for your leadership in recognizing the program needs to be refined to truly work for small businesses – such as OMS practices – as we move into the recovery and reopening phase.

Please let us know if we can help your efforts by contacting Jeanne Tuerk, manager of government affairs at 800-822-6637, ext. 4321 or jtuerk@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor L. Nannini DDS FACS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS
AAOMS President