



April 10, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward Markey  
United States Senator  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
United States Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James McGovern  
United States Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
438 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lori Trahan  
United States Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
1616 Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joseph Kennedy, III  
United States Representative, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
434 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Katherine Clark  
United States Representative, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Seth Moulton  
United States Representative, 6<sup>th</sup> District  
1408 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ayanna Pressley  
United States Representative, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
1108 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Stephen Lynch  
United States Representative, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable William Keating  
United States Representative, 9<sup>th</sup> District  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Honorable Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for your leadership and continued work to protect Americans, stabilize the economy, and ensure the survival of key institutions and sectors during this challenging time. As representatives of leading nonprofits in Massachusetts, we are each working as quickly as possible to identify and take

advantage of various provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that apply to our organizations.

In practice, there are critical gaps in the CARES Act that fail to meet the needs of organizations like ours. If cultural institutions like aquariums, zoos and museums are to survive this crisis, we request that the U.S. Congress work swiftly to enact the following provisions:

- Increase the allocation to at least \$6 billion for the Institute of Museums and Library Services to provide direct economic relief for non-profit museums, aquariums and zoos. This funding should be used to provide grants for operational support, distance learning and pandemic recovery planning and implementation.
- Increase and extend the Paycheck Protection Program and loan forgiveness provisions in the CARES Act through December 2020 and make non-profits, including zoos, aquariums and museums, with greater than 500 employees eligible for loan forgiveness.
- Expand the universal charitable deduction provision by removing the \$300 cap and by eliminating the 60% limit on Adjusted Gross Income that may be deducted through charitable gifts of cash.

Collectively, the nation's museums, zoos and aquariums are losing millions of dollars a day due to closures and are in desperate need of significant federal support to continue to employ many thousands of people, rebuild our nation's tourism industry, and simply survive the months to come. For many of us, even though we are closed to the public, our operational costs remain extremely high to ensure the health and welfare of the animals in our collections that depend on us for their survival and well-being. For museums, the care and security of thousands of irreplaceable, iconic and fragile works of art during this period must continue to preserve them for future generations.

As cash-based businesses, our economic stability depends on revenue generated from our visitors. Initial furloughs and layoffs of personnel began in many of our institutions and will only escalate as closures extend and event cancellations continue. Over and above losses in earned revenue and unremitted expenses, our organizations are expecting lost charitable contributions as donors reassess their capacity to give. The pandemic will have a devastating impact on museums, aquariums, and zoos, which operate on thin margins of financial sustainability and without large designated operational reserve funds or access to tax-relief benefits.

Combined, the items listed above represent the minimum required support mechanisms to ensure that Americans still have these venerable and treasured places of learning, inspiration and connection in our communities when better days return, and we are all able to leave our homes, travel to favorite destinations, and spend time with our family and friends.

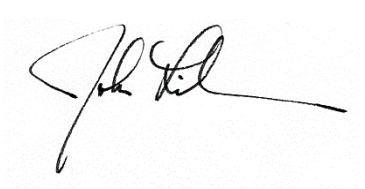
Sincerely,



Vikki Spruill  
President & CEO  
New England Aquarium



Carole Charnow  
President & CEO  
Boston Children's Museum



John Linehan  
President and CEO  
Zoo New England



Tim Ritchie  
President  
Museum of Science



Matthew Teitelbaum  
Ann and Graham Gund Director  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Jill Medvedow  
Ellen Matilda Poss Director  
Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston