To Alaska Legislators:

Thank you for your quick action to protect Alaskans during the COVID-19 crisis. I want to share with you a letter we submitted to Governor Dunleavy this week asking that any efforts to help Alaskans and Alaska businesses specifically include the nonprofit sector. I ask the same from each of you.

Alaska nonprofits employ 44,000 Alaskans representing 17% of the workforce. Many nonprofits are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are caring for the sick, the elderly, children and families. Additionally, our civic and cultural organizations are all closed to protect public health, but their facility expenses continue. We are deeply concerned that Alaska’s safety net, which nonprofits provide, is in peril – this at a time when services are needed more than ever.

I call on each of you to specifically recognize the role nonprofits play in each and every Alaska community – both those on the front lines and those who provide cultural, religious, and civic forms for expression. They cannot operate because of this crisis but still must maintain their infrastructure.

We recognize you are likely getting frantic calls from nonprofit constituents. Please know we doing our best to also respond to them, and we could do this better if we work together. We are keeping a list on our website of federal resources, and we have a toolbox of support to offer individual organizations in crisis. None of these will mitigate their funding losses, but perhaps they will help them make the difficult decisions they face. Feel free to connect your constituents to us or invite us into your process.

As you plan and make decisions, I ask that you consider what nonprofit employees and employers need to weather this crisis. Foraker is a resource to you. We stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Thank you for your service,

Laurie

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