



Cleaning Coalition of America

Cleaning Coalition of America (CCA) Letter to Congress

April 22, 2020

Dear Members of Congress,

America is on the verge of losing one of the most critical assets in the fight against COVID-19 – our nation’s professional cleaners. We write to ask for your urgent help to ensure America’s professional cleaners can safely re-open and transition America to our “new normal” – and restore our economy.

The “stay at home” protocols today are helping to flatten America’s curve but – at the same time – challenging our economy in ways we have not seen since the Great Depression. Without a vaccine, COVID-19 is not going away. We will be forced to re-open America well before a cure is found – and forced to fight the virus every day across a re-opened America. In doing so, **there will be no more important essential worker than America’s professional cleaners.**

Our industry employs the largest number of professional cleaners in America: more than one million workers, fighting to eradicate COVID-19 throughout our country’s hospitals, public transit systems, schools and universities, airports and airplanes, office buildings, stadiums and arenas and all other public spaces.

If our industry fails, many of our nation’s healthcare facilities will be unable to remain clean and safe places to care for patients; multiple public transit systems will not be able to effectively operate and transport commuters; schools and universities across the country will not be ready for the return of students; countless office buildings will not be open in time for Americans to re-enter the workplace; and arenas and stadiums from coast to coast will not be prepared to welcome fans of music, sports and other live entertainment, eager to celebrate a return to everyday life.

Professional cleaners are essential to re-opening America and restoring the economy. Every time a building is shut down and building managers suspend our services, America’s network of professional cleaners shrinks. Every time we do not have access to necessary supplies and personal protective equipment, we cannot fight the virus. Every time an airport loses a TSA-certified contract cleaner, the timeline to reopen the economy lengthens. Every time our industry cannot perform its critical tasks, the risk of this virus’s transmission to even more people increases. If we fail, America will not be able to re-open, and the economy will not be restored. But – as we write to you today – our industry’s very survival is at risk.

We appreciate everything Congress and the Administration have done to provide assistance to struggling businesses and healthcare providers in this time of national emergency; however, we remain concerned that not all issues affecting front-line workers like the ones we employ have been resolved. We respectfully ask you to consider other targeted measures that will help ensure professional cleaners are well prepared to re-open America, transition to our “new normal” and restore the economy, including:





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- 1) **Priority Access to / Funding for Supplies and Equipment:** Ensuring our essential professional cleaners have priority access to personal protective equipment (PPE), including disinfectants, gloves, masks, hand sanitizer and other materials needed to combat the virus. Maintaining a fair, consistent and well-funded supply chain of critical goods will ensure that America can re-open when the time comes and that businesses which depend on us for their livelihoods are not disadvantaged;
- 2) **Payroll Protection:** Providing additional funds in the form of grants or tax credits to keep professional cleaners on the payroll so that we can get public places cleaned and ready for everyday use before the economy reopens. We remain concerned that many of our companies would not be eligible to access small business loans in order to prevent additional furloughs. If the commercial cleaning industry is unable to maintain its workforce, it could take weeks or even months to meet the sudden surge of demand for certified cleaners, putting our entire economic recovery at risk;
- 3) **Liability Fairness:** Providing well-defined regulatory guidance and clear oversight around liability for companies and organizations involved in the front-line fight against COVID-19. We want to ensure our industry is able to safely and effectively tend to the cleaning and disinfecting of public spaces. In order to effectively provide this stewardship to our employees, our customers and the public at large, we need to prevent legal uncertainties from straining our ability to put America back to work; and
- 4) **Healthcare Coverage:** Expanding healthcare coverage for workers. We appreciate the commitment from both parties and the Administration to ensure that all workers, particularly front-line workers, have access to healthcare and protection from COVID-related illness at no cost to them.

Before anyone decides to re-open a shared space, the public must have confidence that the space is safe to enter. When America goes back to work, they need to know that professional cleaners are deployed across the building. The mere presence of cleaning crews, working around the clock, will help restore the faith that it is safe to go back to the office, work out at the gym, attend school, or board a flight. Cleaning and disinfecting common spaces are what our employees do, and they do it better than anyone else in the world.

As our country and the world face this unprecedented public health crisis, America's commercial cleaners will continue to be on the front lines. Our cleaners are needed to eradicate COVID-19 wherever it arises and to restore Americans' sense of safety and security in our public places. However, to continue this vital job, we need urgent action from the federal government. We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure America's commercial cleaners remain on the front lines of our country's battle against COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Josh Feinberg
President, Cleaning Coalition of America

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