

The Honorable Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D.
2342 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2020

RE: COVID-19 LEGISLATION EFMLA & EPLSA DEFINITIONS INCLUDE HOME HEALTH AND SENIOR LIVING EMPLOYEES IN DEFINITION OF 'HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce urges you to include in any regulations or guidance issued by the Department of Labor under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act specific language defining “health care provider” for purposes of the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Act (EFMLA) and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPLSA) to include:

An employee of any home care provider who is providing home care services, including vital preventive care, much-needed companionship and assistance with daily activities, and essential activities of daily living, hospice services, and/or skilled medical services, to a vulnerable population including seniors, disabled adults, and medically frail children.

An employee of a senior living community including independent living, assisted living, memory care, and continuing care retirement communities, who is providing long term services and support and care essential to activities of daily living and/or skilled medical services to a vulnerable population including seniors and disabled adults.

Home health and senior living providers work to ensure that seniors and medically frail individuals — those most at risk from COVID-19 — stay out of hospitals and other acute-care facilities, and ensure that those facilities are able to maintain adequate staffing levels and are not unnecessarily over-taxed where quality care can be provided in a non-acute setting. Moreover, in many instances they provide continuity of care to patients in post-acute setting, on either a short-term or long-term basis. Like nurse-practitioners, nurse-midwives, physician assistants, and other medical professionals, home health and senior living providers are part of a continuum of care and a vital part of our integrated health care delivery system.

Given the critical public health services they are providing, there is a compelling need to include home health and senior living care employees in the definition of “health care provider” under the EFMLA and EPLSA

Thank you for consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Joshua R. Bonner
President and CEO
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce