

December 16, 2020

Dear Members of Congress,

As 2020 draws to a close, I am reminded of the incredible challenges and the heartache the pandemic has brought to so many around the world, including to many of NAMMM's 10,300 members. Even in the darkest of days, we seek to find balance in the many silver linings that naturally seem to come with such turbulent times. But I must admit that our current situation in the music and live events industry makes finding such silver linings a challenge.

In that spirit, I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMMM), the not-for-profit association, with a mission to strengthen the \$17 billion music products industry and to promote the pleasures and benefits of making music, to insist that you pass the bipartisan relief legislation such as the "Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020" and the "Bipartisan State and Local Support and Small Business Protection Act of 2020" before you recess for the holidays. I am heartened to learn that there is a commitment among all negotiating parties to not leave Washington, D.C. until something along the lines of this legislation is passed.

The proposed \$908 billion emergency assistance for American families, workers, and small businesses is necessary to prevent additional music-related manufacturers and retail stores, and live event venues and workers from going out of business during this historical and unprecedented health and financial crisis that will likely extend through the end of 2021. For many, sustainable business activity will not resume well into next year and require several years to truly rebuild.

We offer our full support for any relief package that includes direct payments to individuals, extension of unemployment assistance with a federal boost of at least \$300 per week, access to another round of PPP loans that includes loan forgiveness options, and emergency food and rental assistance. This assistance is the minimum required to keep our hardworking \$17 billion industry in business. We also support direct aid to state and local governments to keep schools operating and to facilitate the distribution of vaccines.

On behalf of the National Association of Music Merchants we send our best wishes to you and your families for a safe and healthy holiday. And we hope that you will consider our industry's families as you weigh whether to adjourn before passing these critical relief bills that will make or break their ability to put food on the table and keep their businesses operating.

Sincerely,

Joe Lamond
NAMMM President and CEO