



April 7, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

The Textile Rental Services Association of America (TRSA) represents companies that provide essential services to hotel and lodging facilities, restaurants, healthcare facilities, manufacturing industries and government agencies by providing safe and hygienically clean linens and garments. Most of our members are small, independently owned multigenerational businesses that launder and maintain essential, environmentally friendly reusable textiles. The importance of our industry is recognized by the “essential services” designation by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Safety Agency and all 50 states.

The coronavirus poses unprecedented challenges to this country, and we applaud your efforts to minimize its impact and keep the American people safe. You have taken aggressive steps to promote our public health and provide needed benefits to our nation’s workers. But as you can expect, an industry that is based on servicing restaurants, hotels and other closed or extremely limited business, are facing economic headwinds that will lead many laundries to shut down operations, lay off workers, and leave us unable to serve our existing essential activities and not be prepared to re-open operations once the crisis subsides and the economy returns to a new normal.

Economically, as a \$40 billion dollar industry, we are responsible for \$19 billion in wages and a \$176 billion impact on the economy. Industry experts are anticipating sales to decline by \$10 billion just during the next three months, which will prompt the loss of between 80,000 to 100,000 jobs – almost half of the industry. Some companies have already laid off over 80% of their workforce, others have drastically cut back shifts or are sharing shifts so employees can receive some sort of paycheck and still others are temporarily closing.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides much needed funding to keep workers on payrolls and businesses open in the form of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The Act allows for any small business concern that meets SBA’s size standards, any business, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, 501(c)(19) veterans organization, or Tribal business concern (sec. 31(b)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act) with less than 500 employees and any business with a NAICS Code that begins with 72 (Accommodations and Food Services) that has more than one physical location and employs less than 500 per location.

Many commercial laundry companies employ more than 500 employees; however they have multiple plants which individually do not have 500 employees, in fact the average commercial laundry operates three plants. The main customer of these laundry companies are the accommodations and food services companies expressly mentioned in the legislation for the Small Business Administration’s waiver test. As these industries go, so do the commercial laundries serving them. To allow them the relief necessary to remain viable, TRSA requests the following North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes be added to the Small Business Administration waiver for the Paycheck Protection Program to include the NAICS codes for industrial laundries (812331, 812332) and their suppliers.

1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 / [www.TRSA.org](http://www.TRSA.org)

The linen, uniform and facility services has extremely low margins, tight cash flow, and a workforce that depends on us for their livelihood. Without this minor tweak to the CARES Act, many family-owned and operated laundries that have operated for decades, some for centuries, now in third and fourth generation of ownership will close their doors permanently.

We urge you to take critical steps to support America's linen, uniform and facility services industry and the nearly 200,000 workers we employ, the vast majority of whom live paycheck-to-paycheck. Specifically, we urge you to enact the following proposals targeted at our industry during this time of uncertainty

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,



Joseph Ricci, CAE  
President & CEO  
Textile Rental Services Association of America (TRSA)