



Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry

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December 9, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Chairman  
National Governors Association  
444 N. Capitol St. N.W., Ste. 267  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Gov. Cuomo,

As vaccines for COVID-19 are approved and become available I ask that your administration ensure that the linen, uniform and facility services laundries are among the top priority industries for receiving the vaccines. Frontline workers and those most vulnerable should get the highest priority, but the next level should include the linen, uniform, and facility services industry.

TRSA Operators and suppliers of the merchandise they purchase, launder and distribute are working together to provide hygienically clean and safe personal protective equipment (PPE), reusable textiles and cleaning and sanitation products to the healthcare, food service, hospitality, and industrial sectors. The linen, uniform and facility services industry is comprised of over 200,000 workers, generates \$19 billion in wages and has a \$176-billion impact on the economy.

Reusable textiles are integral in maintaining an operating and safe supply chain – compared with disposables, they almost never require replacement and are dramatically more reliable in shortages.

Our industry's ability to deliver hygienically clean linens garments and other reusable textiles as well as facility services, first aid and safety items has been recognized as vital to the health and safety of workers and the public during the pandemic. Due to the importance of the industry in maintaining a safe environment, we are considered an essential service by all 50 states as well as the Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency (CISA) of the Department of Homeland Security.

Worker safety is the most important outcome of the use of many products TRSA members provide. Garments considered essential PPE include barrier gowns, hospital scrubs, flame-resistant, high-visibility, and food service coats. Maintaining their protective characteristics requires professional laundry techniques that preserve their integrity. Wearers cannot launder these garments themselves and maintain their safety. An interruption in hygienically clean and safe garments would put frontline healthcare workers and first responders in danger. In the food manufacturing sector, incomplete garment deliveries would slow food processing and likely create food shortages.

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TRSA members distribute reusable mops and wipers as well as cleaning chemicals, sanitizers, toilet paper, hand soap and other facility services products necessary for these and other Life Sustaining Businesses to operate a clean and safe environment. This is more critical now than ever.

TRSA members are following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) operating practices and running on skeleton crews. As a spike in positive tests and hospitalizations is currently occurring, it is imperative laundry employees stay healthy to ensure the safety and hygiene of items for businesses and consumers.

TRSA members are doing their part to keep other Life Sustaining Businesses open, operating, and safe. We ask that you give the industry high priority for vaccines to ensure this proper workforce can maintain hygienically clean and safe linens, uniforms, and facility services to keep the public safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joseph Ricci, CAE  
President & CEO