

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2404**  
March 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Office of the Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As you consider proposals for additional stimulus packages, I encourage you to include provisions making non-profit and religious institution employees eligible for emergency unemployment insurance compensation. With an unexpected drop off in church attendance, donations, and school tuition, many religious institutions may soon be forced into reducing expenses to include laying off some workers. It is important that we take additional steps to protect all workers, including those who have not paid into state unemployment insurance programs.

The following is suggested text from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

*States shall allow faith-based and other nonprofit employers that were not participating in unemployment compensation on the date of enactment of the Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020 to opt in temporarily into the state unemployment compensation program, provided that such employer begins contributing to the program beginning on the date the employer opts into the program, and further provided that the employer continue to participate in such program for a two-year period commencing on the date such employer opts into the program.*

In this time of uncertainty, it is important that we continue to support all Americans. I thank you for your efforts on behalf of the American people and am happy to answer any questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress