



To: Board Members
From: Charles H. Greenthal Management Corp.
Re: Congress Set to Vote on the \$3 Trillion “Heroes’ Act”

Tomorrow, May 15th, 2020, the House of Representatives is preparing to vote on the Health & Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions act, also known as the “HEROES ACT” (HR 6800). This legislation proposes an additional \$3 trillion in relief for those financially impacted by the covid-19 pandemic.

Section 90001 of the HEROES ACT contains amendments to the PPP including changes to the eligibility for the funds, but still does not make multifamily residential real estate eligible for future PPP funds.

This is the time to contact Congress and have them modify Section 90001 of HR 6800 to include multifamily residential real estate as being eligible for the PPP.

In brief, the 1815-page bill notably requests the following:

Supports Small Businesses and Nonprofits – strengthens the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) to ensure that it reaches underserved communities, nonprofits of all sizes and types and responds flexibly to small businesses by providing \$10 billion for COVID-19 emergency grants through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program.

Protects Payrolls – Enhances the new employee retention tax credit that encourages employers to keep employees on the payroll, allowing 60 million Americans to remain connected to their paychecks and benefits.

Housing Assistance – Helps struggling families afford a safe place to live with \$175 billion in new supports to assist renters and homeowners make monthly rent, mortgage and utility payments and other housing-related costs.

Food Security – addresses risking hunger with a 15% increase to the maximum SNAP benefit and additional funding for nutrition programs.

Forgiveness of Student Loan Debt – the legislation would extend existing student loan payment plans, established in the CARES Act, which did not cover private loan borrowers. It would provide up to \$10,000 in debt relief to be applied to a private student loan, to be paid in monthly installments by the Treasury Department until September 2021.

Honoring Our Heroes: provides nearly \$1 trillion to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments who need funds to pay vital workers like first responders, health workers and teachers in danger of losing their jobs.

Heroes’ Fund for Essential Workers – Establish a \$200 billion “Heroes’ Fund” to ensure that essential workers receive hazard pay. Employers of essential workers would be able to apply for grants to provide \$13 per hour premium pay for their workers on top of their regular wages and would be eligible for grants of \$10,000 per worker, or \$5,000 for highly compensated essential workers.

Funding for testing, tracing, and treatments – Provides an additional \$75 billion for coronavirus testing, contact tracing and isolation measures to ensure that all Americans could receive free coronavirus treatment.

Direct payments to Americans - The bill would implement a second round of direct payments to Americans to assist with the fallout of the pandemic. It would provide \$1,200 to every family member, including children, up to \$6,000 per household.

Worker Safety – Requires OSHA to issue a strong, enforceable standard within 7 days, to require all workplaces to develop and implement infection control plans based on CDC expertise and prevents employers for retaliating against workers who report infection control problems.

Preserves Health Coverage – Protects Americans losing their employer-provide health insurance with COBRA subsidies to maintain their coverage and creates a special enrollment period in the ACA exchanges for uninsured Americans.

Extension of Unemployment Benefits – Extends a \$600-per-week boost in the unemployment insurance established under the CARES Act until January 2021, to help those who have lost jobs during the pandemic.

Election security - The bill allocates \$3.6 billion in grants to states for planning and preparation of elections, as well as to bolster election security. Several progressive groups have called for election assistance to be included in the next coronavirus relief bill.

Charles H. Greenthal Management Corp. will continue to monitor the status of the proposed legislation and will provide updates to you as more information becomes available.