

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our member companies, thank you for the action Congress has taken to guide the nation as it confronts the physical, psychological, and economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. A key element of support for thousands of government contractors around the country and the federal agencies they support has been Section 3610 of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136), set to expire on March 31, 2021. The need for the authority, however, has not expired. We urge you to extend this critical support provision that allows federal agencies to best manage their total workforce during this ongoing pandemic.

Section 3610 provides the authority for agencies to cover certain contractor costs from existing funds and to keep key personnel and skilled workers in a “ready state” during COVID-19. This authority continues to be used by many federal agencies to maintain the capabilities and workforce necessary to meet mission needs and protect our national security and other vital programs.

Despite increasing vaccination rates, COVID-19 is still with us and the United States remains in a declared national emergency. Access to government facilities and remote work options continue to face uncertainties and frequent changes. Until agencies allow all contractors back to their worksites and we are past the need for quarantines shutting down workspaces, Section 3610 continues to be a critical tool for retaining highly skilled workers supporting operations across the government. Agencies are not mandated to utilize Section 3610, and the authority's extension does not require additional appropriations. Instead, it is a tool the government can employ when needed to maintain their contractor workforce when COVID-19 forces facility closures, the implementation of social distancing measures, and staggered shift work for those who are physically in the workplace.

In just the last few weeks, numerous organizations representing the breadth of the government industrial base, including manufacturers and service providers, from large companies to small businesses, have emphasized the importance of the 3610 authority and the need for an extension. We add our support to the continued and growing calls for continuing this vital provision.

On behalf of the tens of thousands of employees across the nation who are dedicated to supporting government operations, we respectfully ask you to include a government-wide extension of Section 3610 in any bill, or as a standalone bill, that is enacted prior to the March 31, 2021 expiration of this vital authority.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this matter.

Yours respectfully,

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
The Center for Procurement Advocacy (CPA)
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA)
National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
Professional Services Council (PSC)
Security Industry Association (SIA)
Shipbuilders Council of America