May 4, 2020

Dear Rep. Meuser:

On behalf of the 20,000 members of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), we urge you to reach out to the U.S. Treasury Department (Treasury) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to request immediate release of key guidance on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness calculation.

As trusted advisors to small business owners and nonprofit entities, CPAs are being called upon to advise PPP borrowers on how available guidance applies to them – and how critical, forthcoming guidance may be written. The lack of available guidance on the loan forgiveness calculations makes critical decisions, like staff retention, unnecessarily worrisome and difficult for current and prospective PPP borrowers. We have been told repeatedly that this guidance is forthcoming, but the guidance release date remains uncertain.

To ensure small businesses and eligible nonprofits can qualify for loan forgiveness in the PPP, we are calling for a consistent and efficient approach to loan forgiveness that aligns with borrower operations and PPP intent. The accounting profession has submitted recommendations to simplify the implementation and execution of the PPP (click here), and we ask you to encourage Treasury and SBA to consider these recommendations as it issues guidance.

Without this guidance, small business and nonprofit PPP borrowers face real timing and calculation implications for the forgiveness component of the loans.

We commend the Treasury and the SBA for their work to create the PPP under difficult circumstances and in a short amount of time, and we thank you for your attention to this matter, and your leadership to help our country’s small business community emerge from this crisis strong and ready to thrive.

Please call on us if we can answer questions.

Sincerely,

Alex

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PICPA is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. Check the website for news, resources, and updates related to COVID-19 and how PICPA is advocating on your behalf.