



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Peter Clerkin**

202-945-4950

[peter@aahoa.com](mailto:peter@aahoa.com)

## **AAHOA Statement on Passage of PPP & Health Care Enhancement Act**

ATLANTA, Ga., April 23 – AAHOA President & CEO Cecil P. Staton issued the following statement on Congressional passage of the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, a stimulus package designed to replenish PPP funding which ran out less than two weeks after the program’s initial launch:

“America’s hotel owners are grateful for our government’s swift action to appropriate additional funds for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program and the Paycheck Protection Program. However, we are concerned that these measures do not go far enough to blunt the impact this economic crisis is having on the hospitality sector of the economy. The formula for determining the maximum PPP loan amount still does not provide hotel owners with enough liquidity to weather this storm. On average, PPP loans only cover about 47 percent of a hotel’s operating costs. With many hotels’ occupancy rates hovering around the single digits, owners are struggling to keep their doors open. The stimulus also does not address the reality that this crisis will not be over in a matter of weeks. That is why we continue to call on Congress to extend PPP through the end of 2020. We also encourage policymakers to give more consideration to a business’s debt obligations, such as mortgages, as they formulate relief loans and determine how they can be spent.

“Hotels are a signal industry. Hotel owners and their employees felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic at its onset as occupancy rates and revenue declined steeply. Public caution and conflicting messages from government officials about reopening will mean a slow return to travel, tourism, conventions, and meetings. This means that hotels will be one of the last industries to recover. Without targeted and meaningful support, policymakers run the risk that thousands of hotels and the millions of jobs they create may not be around when the recovery from this pandemic begins.”

### **About AAHOA:**

*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the world. The over 19,500 AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States. With billions of dollars in property assets and hundreds of thousands of employees, AAHOA members are core economic contributors in virtually every community. AAHOA is a proud defender of free enterprise and the foremost current-day example of realizing the American dream.*

###