

Motorcoach industry will feel ripples of \$1.9T relief plan as economy benefits from stimulus

The massive \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic relief package, the American Rescue Plan, does not hold specific funding for the motorcoach businesses. However, numerous provisions will have a positive impact on the industry as we await news of the CERTS program and look to an infrastructure bill that might provide more direct relief for our industry.

"No doubt, there is encouraging news in the relief package," Larry Killingsworth UMA President and CEO said. "But more needs to be done. For example, the Paycheck Protection Program's second draw will expire at the end of the month, but the economic challenges of the pandemic will not be over for our industry and many others."

"Extending the program's application deadline until December 31 and allowing for a third draw on loans will be vital to ensuring motorcoach companies can maintain operations and keep workers on payrolls."

Overall the industry will reap benefits as restaurants and venues receive bailout funds and reopen, allowing more options and destinations for motorcoach charters and tours as state and local ordinances are rolled back. Americans receiving relief checks will have more money for travel.

To the extent that the American Rescue Plan buoys the American economy with direct payments to individuals, expanded vaccine distribution, and safe school reopenings, there will be ripples that will reach motorcoach operators in the form of greater demand for service.

And looking beyond just the operators of our industry to our partners who provide products and services, there is good news for those vendors in this package. Funding earmarked for other passenger modes will provide opportunities for companies that manufacture and distribute vehicles, parts, services, seating, fabrics, and PPE for the public sector as well as ours; hopefully assuring their continued viability.