



September 21, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

The undersigned organizations are writing on behalf of the 30 million small businesses, collectively represented by our organizations, to ask for swift action to support America's small businesses that are desperately struggling to survive the COVID-19 health pandemic and the subsequent economic fall out. While we acknowledge the unprecedented support and resources that were directed to small businesses earlier this spring, **more must be done and we write today to urge that same swift, bipartisan leadership on a standalone small business relief package that will assist the most fragile small businesses and their employees.**

Sixth months into the COVID-19 pandemic, our members' businesses are on the brink of recovery and continuing to struggle to survive. Because the small business sector is the backbone of the economy, these continued liquidity challenges are acute, especially for those businesses which have yet to reopen, as well as those limited by capacity restrictions and other critical health and safety protocols in place to protect the public, consumers and workers from COVID-19.

This week is National Small Business Week and what better way for Congress to honor and show their support for America's Small Business that pass critical legislation to help them and their workers navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

For these reasons, we implore you to consider a small business relief package encompassing the most bipartisan, consensus-based policies that will alleviate the most pressing challenges for small business

owners. Notably, this is not our collective wish list, or even the policies that will have the most impact in our community. This list recognizes the political reality that the debate over COVID-19 response will continue through the fall, but these small and low-to-no-cost measures means thousands of small businesses will make it to the holidays. These solutions come from several already introduced pieces of legislation and we appreciate the efforts of so many Members of Congress in drafting bills in response to this crisis.

- ❑ Allow the hardest hit small businesses to take a second draw on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), as suggested in the *Continuing Small Business Recovery and Paycheck Protection Program Act* and *Prioritized Paycheck Protection Program (P4) Act*;
- ❑ Expedite PPP loan forgiveness, particularly for the smallest and hardest hit businesses, pass S. 4117/H.R. 7777, *The Paycheck Protection Small Business Forgiveness Act*;
- ❑ Allow full tax deductibility for PPP recipients, thereby eliminating the unexpected and substantial tax increase many business owners now face;
- ❑ Eliminate caps and increase funding for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program;
- ❑ Ensure tax-exempt organizations such as 501(c)6 trade organizations, chambers of commerce and destination marketing organizations (501(c)6 and quasi-governmental structures have PPP access
- ❑ Optimize the Small Business Administration 7(a) loan program by providing increased federal loan guarantees and maximum loan sizes, as well as reduced fees, all of which were critical programmatic changes that accelerated economic recovery after the Great Recession; and
- ❑ Increase funding for Community Development Financial Institutions, which promote economic revitalization in distressed communities.
- ❑ Costs associated with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), technology and cloud based services, and business physically damaged during COVID-19 should be forgiven under PPP;

Unless Congress provides additional relief this month, business failures in the next several months will skyrocket as it will be impossible for additional measures to come online until well after the election or perhaps even into early 2021. There is no doubt that a larger package is needed, not only to bolster America's entrepreneurial engine, but also to address the challenges faced well beyond the small business community, and we urge all parties to work together in drafting, passing and enacting that critical legislation.

But today, Congress has an opportunity to pass immediate legislation that would make a meaningful difference at effectively no cost to the taxpayer. We can think of no reason why these elements of support -- with bipartisan, bicameral support -- could not be passed in the coming days.

Thank you for your understanding and appreciation of our concerns during this critical time.

Sincerely,

American Hotel & Lodging Association
Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship
Association for Enterprise Opportunity
Association of Women's Business Centers

Consumer Bankers Association
Disability:IN
International Franchise Association
Latino Business Action Network
National Association for the Self-Employed
National Association of Women Business Owners
National Small Business Association
NextGen Chamber of Commerce
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council
Small Business Roundtable
U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Travel Association

cc:

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Chairman, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
The Honorable Ben Cardin, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez, Chair, House Committee on Small Business
The Honorable Steve Chabot, Ranking Member, House Committee on Small Business
Members, United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Members, United States House Committee on Small Business