

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 2, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We thank you for your decisive leadership to advance the Build Back Better Act. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our country, improve the health of Americans, meet the needs of working families, and rebuild from the devastation caused by the pandemic. As you prepare the Build Back Better Act and reaffirm the Majority's commitment to protecting Americans' health and fitness, we write to urge you to prioritize the inclusion of H.R. 890, the Gym Mitigation and Survival Act (GYMS Act).

In March 2020, almost all of the nation's more than 40,000 fitness facilities were ordered to shut down to stop the spread of COVID-19. When finally allowed to operate, fitness facilities were only able to do so under severe restrictions, the effects of which negatively impacted already depleted membership rates and revenue. The spread of the delta variant of COVID-19 has led to a return of restrictions on fitness facilities. This has devastated a sector which safeguards Americans' health: nearly 1 in 4 facilities has closed permanently, \$29.2 billion in revenue has been lost, and 47 percent of employees in the sector - 1.5 million - have lost their jobs.<sup>1</sup> Without direct, industry-specific aid, the effects will be long-lasting: 64 percent of small facility owners and operators report that they have taken on additional debt to stay in business due to the closures and restrictions, and 80 percent are still struggling with the long-term financial impact.<sup>2</sup>

The GYMS Act can reverse this distressing course. The GYMS Act would establish a grant program to provide economic support to distressed fitness facilities at risk of failure due to the

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.clubindustry.com/industry-news/22-percent-gyms-have-closed-292-billion-revenue-lost-covid-19-hit>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/08/15/gyms-congress-covid-relief/>

COVID-19 pandemic. It would allow for owners and operators to apply for grants from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and use the funds for payroll, rent, mortgage, utilities, insurance, and other expenses fitness facilities normally incur. Congress has successfully enacted similar measures to support the two other industries directly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, restaurants and live venues. The GYMS Act is broadly popular and enjoys the support of nearly 60 percent of the Caucus.

The GYMS Act would save millions of jobs and tens of thousands of small businesses, would allow for Americans to take charge of their health and fitness, and would further fulfill our promise to Build Back Better. It is critical that we act on this legislation and make a direct investment in the health and fitness of all Americans. We urge you to prioritize the GYMS Act's inclusion in the Build Back Better Act.

Sincerely,



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
David Trone  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Tedd Lieu  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Tom Suozzi  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_  
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

CC: Sen. Charles Schumer, Senate Majority Leader  
Sen. Ben Cardin, Chairman, Senate Small Business Committee  
Rep. Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader  
Rep. Nydia Velazquez, Chairwoman, House of Representatives Small Business Committee