

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 17, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

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

As Congress works to address the major challenges facing our nation, we ask that protecting the economic health and wellbeing of America's small businesses – especially those disproportionately impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic – remains a top priority.

While the U.S. economy continues to grow, the recovery has been uneven, and the negative effects of the rapid spread of new COVID-19 variants disproportionately impact businesses which rely upon in-person gathering to survive, including the restaurant, hospitality, fitness, live events, and travel industries. Especially as we head into the winter months, tens of thousands of small businesses across the country are faced with the possibility of layoffs, reduced service or hours, or outright closure, barring additional federal relief.

Congress has risen to the challenge before, standing up targeted relief programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF), and the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant (SVOG) program. Together, these programs helped keep millions of Americans on payrolls, prevented countless small businesses from closing, and helped power an economic recovery much more robust than most would have predicted.

Unfortunately, not all small businesses in need were able to access these programs. Others did not receive much-needed financial assistance because the funds simply ran out. Instead of lifting all boats, we've only lifted some, leaving scores of small business owners out in the cold through no fault of their own. Many of these small business owners have taken on extraordinary debt while they wait for much-needed federal assistance. We must help them before it is too late.

We the undersigned call on House and Senate leadership to expedite a targeted relief package that funds all previously eligible requests through the RRF and allows small businesses in the fitness, live events, and travel industries to request much-needed federal assistance. These

small businesses are critical to the cultural and economic vitality of our communities, and they need our help.

We thank you for your commitment to passing a targeted small-business relief package and we stand ready to work with you to ensure that it reaches those businesses with the greatest demonstrated need. For far too many, time is running out – but the window of opportunity remains open. Let’s work together to get it done.

Sincerely,

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Lou Correa
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Deborah Ross
Member of Congress

Michael San Nicolas
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Joseph Morelle
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

John Larson
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Tom Suozzi
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Danny Davis
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

cc:

Rep. Nydia Velazquez
Chair, House Small Business Committee

Sen. Ben Cardin
Chair, Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship