

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your efforts to find agreement on the next phase of emergency aid to help our country address the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. As you continue these discussions, we would like to highlight the RESTART Act (H.R.7481/S.3814) for your consideration. We continue to hear from employers across a range of industries and geographies about the need for long-term support to carry them through the disruption to their businesses and organizations due to the coronavirus pandemic. The RESTART Act would provide this support, so we encourage you to include its provisions in the next round of aid so that workers in hard-hit industries will have jobs to come back to on the other side of this pandemic.

Both the House-passed *Heroes Act* (H.R.6800) and Senate Republicans' *Continuing Small Business Recovery and Paycheck Protection Program Act* (S.4321) recognize that adjustments are needed to the existing set of employer aid programs in order to effectively protect the engines of our economic recovery. The bills' changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) recognize the value of extending the availability of employer aid, as well as targeting aid to employers that have experienced measurable revenue declines. The changes to SBA's long-standing loan programs in each bill also illustrate each chamber's understanding of the need to provide low-interest, long-term assistance. While each of these changes would be helpful on their own, the RESTART Act provides a unified approach to addressing each of these requirements in a more comprehensive way.

The RESTART Act fills a clear need for aid that goes beyond what the PPP or SBA's 7(a) program will be able to provide. First, RESTART provides the certainty employers need to create a long-term strategy to navigate the pandemic, with support that lasts for at least six months. Second, it targets limited resources to employers experiencing losses. Third, it reaches industries that were poorly-served by the PPP, like those that have substantial capital expenses, those that are likely to remain closed until the pandemic has abated, and seasonal businesses that have lost nearly all of their peak period income due to social distancing requirements. Each of these types of businesses has seen only partial relief from the PPP and SBA's other existing programs. RESTART is a better fit because it targets eligibility and loan forgiveness to employers that need it most, provides long-term support, and helps employers with a broad set of

operating expenses instead of focusing on payroll costs. These features have drawn support from a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, hospitality, travel, recreation, entertainment, and fitness, as well as 46 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and 78 in the House. With all of this in mind, we ask that you include these provisions in the next phase of pandemic aid to keep our economy poised to quickly restart once the coronavirus threat is behind us.

Thank you for considering our request. Please contact us with any questions you have about this legislation.

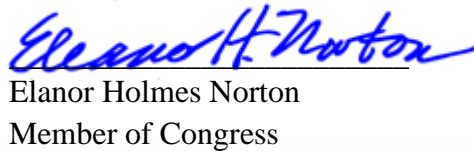
Sincerely,



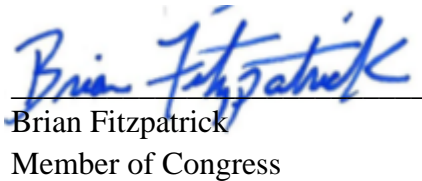
Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress



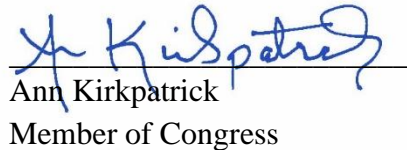
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



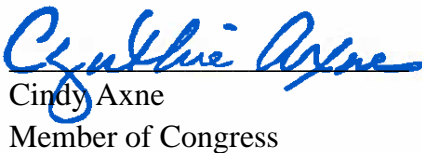
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



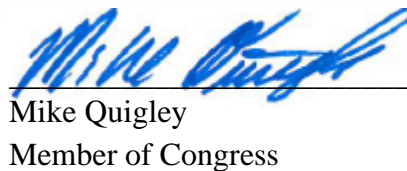
David Trone
Member of Congress



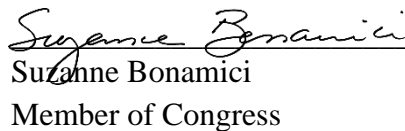
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



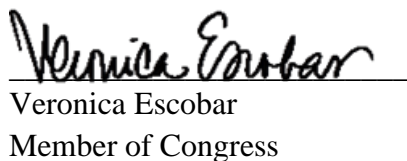
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

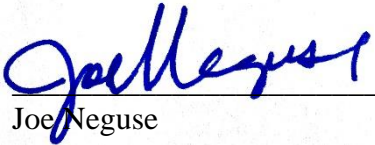
/s/ CONOR LAMB
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

/s/ DINA TITUS
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda
Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

/s/ JIM COOPER
Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

/s/ DAVID PRICE
David Price
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Joe Neguse
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/s/ J. LUIS CORREA
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Will Hurd
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/s/ PETE AGUILAR
Pete Aguilar
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