

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are facing unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment is skyrocketing. Small business owners are facing impossible choices and wrestling with a tangle of well-intentioned, but flawed, government programs. Healthcare and other frontline workers are continuing to grapple with the significant public health threats posed by the virus with inadequate protective equipment. Our country still lacks a coherent and aggressive plan to scale up testing and treatment capacity.

It is because of these still urgent challenges that we write today to ask you to set aside proposals that lack broad and bipartisan public support and work to negotiate a legislative package that can pass both houses of Congress and earn the support of the White House. Now is not a moment for political gamesmanship -- it's a time to work with our Republican colleagues and leadership in the Senate to negotiate a targeted relief bill that is aimed squarely at the health and economic challenges facing the country and the people we represent.

Since the beginning of this public health crisis, we have been in constant communication with our constituents about their needs and the challenges facing their communities. Their message has been clear: lawmakers should be doing the work we were elected to do -- using the legislative and oversight process to address the core problems that are directly connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. Across our districts, we have heard repeatedly that Congress should be focused on fixing structural flaws in the Paycheck Protection Program, identifying what further assistance small businesses need, providing additional aid to state and local governments, ensuring our frontline workers have adequate and sustained access to personal protective equipment, and working to increase state testing capacity so that businesses can reopen, workers can more safely return to work, and the American people can have increased confidence that there is a plan to monitor and limit the spread of COVID-19.

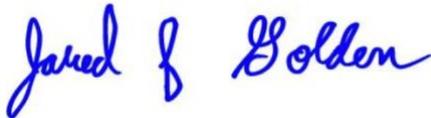
Unfortunately, it appears some lawmakers view the consideration of an additional aid package to address the COVID-19 pandemic as either unnecessary or as a political opportunity to advance their own unrelated -- and in some cases unrealistic -- legislative agenda. This is unacceptable. The people of our districts expect thoughtful, targeted, and timely action. They don't have patience for party leaders and Washington insiders to put forward vision documents that have no chance of becoming law or even setting the terms of the debate. Many of them -- essential workers at grocery stores, shipyards, paper mills, and hospitals -- cannot fathom that while they are getting up every day to serve their families and communities, Congress is wasting time

debating partisan policies rather than searching for realistic solutions to the core challenges confronting the nation.

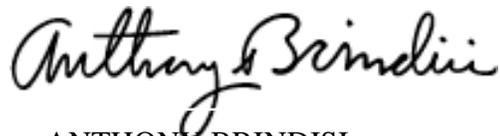
While many people are criticizing the president for appearing to lose focus on this health crisis and the long recovery before us, choosing instead simply to declare victory and move onto his reelection campaign, Democratic lawmakers will be no better if we abandon a laser focus on the still dire circumstances facing many of our constituents and spend the next several weeks issuing press releases about what Democrats would do if we were in control. We should instead ask ourselves what can we successfully accomplish with our Republican colleagues and with leadership in the Senate. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you please set aside any desire to use this as a political opportunity to create a contrast with the failed response of this administration and instead focus on getting results in a bipartisan and bicameral way. The majority of Americans expect nothing less, and all of our constituents deserve responsible governing in the midst of this national crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We stand ready to join you and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the hard work needed to deliver meaningful relief to the people we represent.

Respectfully,



JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress



KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress



MAX ROSE
Member of Congress