



National LGBT
Chamber of Commerce



RE: Congressional Support for Small Businesses Needed NOW

October 20, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

We, the undersigned, write to you on behalf of two of the largest organizations representing America's diverse entrepreneurs and workforce. The LGBT- and Hispanic-owned businesses in our collective networks contribute more than \$3 *trillion* in economic impact, as well as tens of thousands of tax-paying, industry- innovating jobs.

Many of those jobs are directly tied to the fate of America's major industries who are also being considered for direct support. We write in support of the pending federal intervention to help major industries impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. We ask you to ensure such relief includes direct support for America's millions of diverse small business owners, as you have in previous stimulus initiatives that have brought essential support to our local affiliate chambers, lending partners, and more.

We concur with the Speaker's commitment to couple major industry relief with a broader coronavirus relief package for the country, but believe we must see action now. Further delays will further imperil America's small and diverse businesses. Our network of entrepreneurs power every element of our nation's largest industry operations from essential PPE to HR and IT consultants helping keep employees safe and connected, to food suppliers and much more.

For example, In early October 2020, U.S. airline companies began cutting or furloughing tens of thousands of employees since their initial \$25 billion CARES Act funds ran out. Carriers have indicated they would reverse course if lawmakers approved more in aid and support. An immediate infusion of funds and technical support for the airlines-- especially for their employees and suppliers-- is needed to ensure the entire industry is strong when we emerge from COVID-19. The sooner these industries stabilize, the sooner we can help our communities' businesses get back to work and suppliers and customers.



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Recovery funds are imperative, but with our interconnected small business supply chains affected just as deeply as our national industries the recovery must benefit *all* affected Americans. We thank you for your support of our businesses and our national recovery.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Nelson'.

Justin Nelson
President & Co-Founder
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramiro Cavazos'.

Ramiro Cavazos
President & CEO
US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CC:

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman United States Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510