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12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, RANKING MEMBER
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

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

I want to thank you for the work you are doing to keep businesses afloat and employees paid during this unprecedented time. Specifically, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has provided over 52,000 loans and grants totaling more than \$12 billion in Florida alone.

Unfortunately, we know that the demand for the PPP program has been so significant, that the program is now out of funding and unable to accept new applications. However, many businesses were finding another problem associated with the implementation of the program.

While the program is permitted for businesses with up to 500 employees, many businesses with lower employee counts have been at a disadvantage. Specifically, sole-proprietors and mom-and-pop type shops have less resources available to them to navigate the complicated and ever-evolving lender landscape as it relates to the PPP. Meanwhile, comparatively "large" businesses, who are eligible for more funds, have been submitting applications and are being increasingly successful.

Therefore, in order to best help the smallest of our small businesses, I recommend that in any future package for increasing funding of the PPP, there be a portion of funds set-aside for businesses with less than twenty-five employees. I also recommend that for any other program that may be created to help small businesses during and in the aftermath of this crisis, the unique circumstances of these businesses be considered to ensure they have a fair chance to stay in operation for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

cc.

Senator Marco Rubio, Chairman, Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
Senator Ben Cardin, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, Chairwoman, House Committee on Small Business
Congressman Steve Chabot, Ranking Member, House Committee on Small Business