

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

We are writing to you as you work on a third coronavirus (COVID-19) supplemental funding package to urgently request a more robust emergency economic relief program for small businesses to complement the Disaster Assistance loan program already being implemented across the country.

The COVID-19 crisis is greatly affecting small businesses in our districts and across the country. Washington has joined other states in compelling Americans to restrict activity and businesses to reduce operations to only essential personnel. As a result, businesses are already feeling the cash-flow problems, seeing declining revenues, losing customers, and laying off employees.

While the previous two supplemental funding packages Congress approved would ensure that low-interest Disaster Assistance loans and other financial assistance measures from the Small Business Administration (SBA) are available, several small business owners have told us that these loans are simply not enough to keep them afloat until this crisis subsides. Many already operate with thin revenue margins and will incur increased costs to get their businesses back up to full capacity. A long-term loan payment could constrain their ability to return to normal operations.

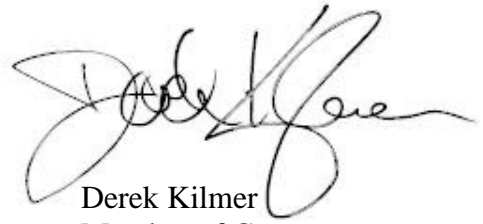
We need a relief program that resembles the one outlined in the *Keeping Workers Paid and Employed Act* to encourage small businesses affected by COVID-19 to continue paying employees through this crisis. With such a program in place, employers could maintain their payroll with that assistance, and the amount of the loan used for payroll expenses would be forgiven to reward these employers for keeping Americans working.

It is vital that we act quickly to help small businesses endure this crisis, and urgently plead with you to take additional action quickly.

Sincerely,

*Jaime Herrera Beutler*

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Kilmer', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress