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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Chair
House Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chair Velazquez, and Ranking Member Chabot:

Thank you for your leadership on the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136) that provided significant aid for our frontline health care workers and distressed sectors of the economy. This is an unprecedented time, and Americans need efficient and effective federal leadership now more than ever.

The CARES Act provided increased resources for the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and created the Paycheck Protection Program to allow small businesses to keep employees on the payroll and pay their bills. Unfortunately, this assistance does not apply to 501(c)(6) organizations, many of whom are local chambers of commerce. These chambers are non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that support small businesses, help navigate obstacles and regulations, provide guidance, and facilitate local economic growth.

Multiple chambers of commerce in the 26th district of Texas have been working around the clock to ensure small businesses receive assistance made available by the CARES Act. To continue functioning, these chambers must have the cash for payroll, bills, and to provide programming and services. Without financial support, these operations will halt. If this occurs, local businesses will suffer immediate hardship that may lead to permanent closure.

As a result, Congress should take steps to ensure that 501(c)(6) organizations, particularly chambers of commerce, are eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans and the Paycheck Protection Program. To that end, Congress must immediately provide additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program as all funds are expended. The CARES Act has already saved many

small businesses. We should provide this opportunity for all small entities, including the chambers of commerce providing support.

The United States has long been the land of opportunity. Let us ensure that the space for ingenuity and innovation is not eliminated during this pandemic. We cannot let this invisible enemy defeat what makes America great. I appreciate your prompt consideration of this request and again thank you for your efforts during this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Burgess, M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

MB:rh