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March 16, 2020

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cruz:

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce writes to urge the Senate to continue working together in a bipartisan manner to respond to the economic impacts created by the spread of the COVID-19 global pandemic. We appreciate your commitment to ensure the health and safety of all Americans during this unprecedented public health emergency.

The Lubbock Chamber is the leading business federation in West Texas for businesses of all sizes and industry. We represent 1,700 businesses and nearly 80,000 of their employees. There are thousands of local Chambers like ours across the country whose members desperately need assistance during this time. We are closely coordinating with federal, state, and local health officials on how best to safely serve our communities during this crisis.

Soon, the Senate will likely consider H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. We applaud the bipartisan efforts of the House to create a government-backed response that would enable businesses to provide paid sick leave to our employees who may be diagnosed, quarantined, or caring for a family member suffering from coronavirus.

We strongly urge you to consider legislation to bring the administration of employee paid sick leave within the federal government and not place it on business owners. Many of these businesses are experiencing a downturn in customers right now, and simply don't have the cash on hand to cover these costs now and be reimbursed later. No business should go bankrupt due to a temporary loss in revenue as a result of COVID-19.

Looking beyond this legislation, we appreciate your commitment to developing timely, comprehensive and targeted economic recovery measures focused on addressing the economic fallout of the coronavirus. Among those that we are particularly interested in are:

- Assistance in allowing businesses to defer mortgage, lease and loan obligations;
- Tax credits for businesses that are retaining employees;
- Targeted grants that would go directly to businesses;
- Assistance in allowing businesses to delay, defer, or forgo tax obligations;
- Expanded access to effective, efficient and affordable federal and conventional loans;
- Fixing the Qualified Improvement Property (QIP) technical correction, so businesses can (a) amend their returns and receive money back that they effectively overpaid in taxes, and (b) receive the benefit of bonus depreciation, as a stimulus measure.

We will continue to work with our members and fellow Chambers of Commerce across the country to support their businesses, employees, and families.

Each day, Americans choose to do business with a variety of local businesses to support themselves and their families. Business is woven into the fabric and essence of local communities across the nation, and we are dedicated to serving our customers in every way possible during this pandemic. There is a tremendous need for bold policy actions from Congress to enable us to continue this role in the months to come. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to supporting your efforts in any way possible.

Thank you for your positive consideration.



Eddie McBride, IOM
President and CEO