



July 30, 2020

Regarding: HEALS Act Provision Granting c(6) Organizations PPP Access

Dear Ohio Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for the direct support you provided to small businesses within recent COVID-19 stimulus relief packages, which has been vital to their ability to endure this pandemic. As we continue to connect employers with critical information and help them navigate the available resources, we appreciate Congress’s continued recognition of the important role small businesses play in the national economy.

With the recent introduction of the HEALS Act, we are hopeful that Congress will reach a bipartisan outcome that continues to support key programs and provides other funding that aims to get our country through COVID-19. **For many businesses, time is of the essence, and so we encourage swift action by Congress to pass a final bill.** In doing this, you will help mitigate long-term challenges to our economy and ensure that when the health crisis diminishes, there will be businesses left to provide jobs to millions of Americans.

Chambers of commerce are uniquely qualified to serve as hubs of information and critical support for the business community and have experienced vast numbers of businesses turning to us for guidance. Many of us have led community conversations on recovery efforts, managed resource websites and facilitated small business grant programs, positioning us as key resources within our communities. At a time when thousands of businesses are relying on us for this level of engagement and connectivity, our ability to continue actively serving businesses is more critical than ever.

However, we are not immune to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and have experienced a broad array of difficulties, just like any other business. In fact, we are uniquely impacted as membership organizations whose long-term support is directly tied to the viability of our members. The inherent nature of our relationship with businesses makes their success our top priority and **as we continue helping them access key programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program, we still are not able to access these resources,** despite being impacted by COVID-19 just like any other employer.

Because we share the same economic concerns as our respective business communities and their economic recovery is our top priority, **we respectfully ask that you maintain language within the HEALS Act that allows chambers of commerce, organized as 501(c)6 entities, to access the Paycheck Protection Program.** By giving c(6) organizations access to the Paycheck Protection Program, you will enable chambers of commerce to continue supporting Ohio’s broader economic recovery efforts.

The recovery and long-term viability of businesses in Ohio has always been, and will continue to be, our top priority. We respectfully urge Congress to maintain Section 113 of the HEALS ACT to enable us to continue effectively conducting this work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Sincerely,



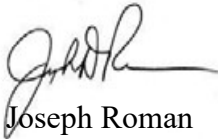
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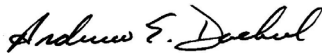
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