

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza:

We write to thank you for your work to provide urgently needed assistance to employers across New Hampshire, and the country, as they struggle through the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the enormous demand and pressing need for assistance from the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which were recently passed into law as part of the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Congress must act swiftly to extend, expand, and improve these programs. As Congress works to increase funding for this direct assistance, we strongly urge your agencies to prioritize addressing several major issues with these programs that are of serious concern to employers in New Hampshire.

Under the CARES Act, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is directed to rapidly disperse emergency grants to small employers who apply for assistance through the EIDL program. Congress directed that these emergency grants, which employers do not have to pay back even if they are denied or choose not to accept a loan through the EIDL program, be sent to employers within three days of employers submitting an EIDL application to the SBA.

Unfortunately, EIDL applicants in New Hampshire have not received these emergency grants within this timeframe. Though we understand the enormous implementation tasks currently underway at your agencies, we are seriously concerned about this delay in funds for employers in our state that urgently need this emergency assistance, and we urge you to take all possible steps to ensure that EIDL emergency grants are disbursed as quickly as possible.

We are also significantly concerned about small employers with fewer than 10 employees that may not receive the maximum \$10,000 EIDL emergency grant, and about employers facing major operational disruptions that may be ineligible for the maximum EIDL loan amount of \$2 million, due to the way in which Treasury and SBA are determining EIDL grant and loan sizes. We urge you to use the broad emergency rulemaking authority granted to your agencies by the CARES Act to ensure that the smallest employers and employers needing significant EIDL loans receive the direct assistance needed to stay afloat during this crisis.

In addition to these concerns regarding the implementation of the EIDL program, we urge you to continue working with Congress to address several outstanding issues with the PPP program. First, many employers in New Hampshire have faced barriers in applying for PPP assistance through lenders with which they have no pre-existing lending relationship. The PPP program is

intended to directly support all small employers, including non-profits and small businesses that have less extensive relationships with financial institutions. As your agencies refine and communicate PPP guidance to lending partners, it is crucial that you ensure that all small employers have timely access to PPP assistance through a streamlined application process with minimal paperwork burdens.

Moreover, it is imperative that your agencies specifically take into account how to ensure access to PPP assistance for self-employed individuals, who are eligible to apply to the program as of this Friday, April 10. Given the large demand for PPP assistance since the program became available to small employers last Friday, April 3, we urge you to take all possible steps to assist self-employed individuals who – like small employers – urgently need the direct support provided by the PPP program.

We stand ready to do our part as well to help ensure that more funds are made available for these purposes should current funding prove inadequate, and to address any further obstacles faced by small employers applying for assistance through the EIDL and PPP programs.

Again, thank you for the enormous efforts of you and your staff in implementing these crucial programs for small employers and the self-employed. We will continue partnering with your agencies to provide this direct assistance as rapidly as possible.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Anne McLane Kuster
United States Representative



Chris Pappas
United States Representative