



December 3, 2020

The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner,

It is critical that Congress pass pandemic relief for small businesses and families before the end of this year. We know that enacting a bill will require bipartisan compromise, and the recent bipartisan, bicameral proposal as well as the revisions to the Senate GOP proposal provide an opening to break the current impasse. We encourage you to: (1) push for a bipartisan agreement that can pass this year and (2) ensure that as the bill is drafted, the PPP provision provides for support for all nonprofits including 501(c)6es.

The cost of Congress failing to act this year could be catastrophic. Approximately one-third of Virginia small businesses saw a drop in revenue this month, and more small businesses in Virginia have reduced employment than increased employment over the same period. Nearly 75% of Virginia small businesses received assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program, but nearly all have exhausted their PPP funding and more than 25% expect to need additional financial assistance in the next six months. According to recent Census Bureau polling, nearly a quarter of Virginians expect to lose employment income in the next month, and 5% are either not current on their rent or mortgage or have little confidence they can make next month's payment. Moreover, unemployment benefits for approximately 200,000 Virginians will expire this month.

The CARES Act and other small business support programs adopted heretofore have left out chambers of commerce and other professional associations who are the backbones of their communities serving small business and entrepreneurs. Chambers and associations provide critical community support services, especially at times of crisis, as has been evidenced by our collaboration with your office throughout this year. Although many associations have persevered through 2020, associations face real risks from the continuation and worsening of the pandemic. If chambers and associations are forced to shutter permanently during the crisis, they will be unable to assist employees or provide essential services to our communities to aid the eventual recovery.

Your efforts to complete a pandemic relief bill prior to the end of the year will save countless small businesses and families across our Commonwealth, and those who work to support them. We thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates  
President & CEO