



March 1, 2020

The Honorable Don Beyer
United States House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Beyer,

Thank you for your support for small businesses through the previous rounds of coronavirus relief legislation and your availability to small business owners in Arlington and throughout the 8th District over the past year. As we look ahead, the Chamber encourages Congress to pass both additional support that is generally applicable to businesses, and specifically tailored assistance for industries that have been particularly hard hit. The blending of PPP expansion and the shuttered venue grants in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, is an example of this dual approach that Congress has already enacted.

One industry that has faced particular challenges during the pandemic are local gyms and fitness studios. Capacity limits and other restrictions enacted by the Commonwealth to prevent the spread COVID-19 have reduced the revenue available to gyms and fitness studios. Similar to restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues, many gyms and fitness studios run the risk of not surviving until the restrictions are lifted, unless they receive direct support to get them through the restricted time.

We were heartened to see that you were one of the first co-sponsors of the Gyms Mitigation and Survival Act (GYMS Act) to provide \$30 billion to the Small Business Administration for grants to eligible fitness businesses. We encourage your continued support to secure the passage of this legislation.

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