

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 which would provide \$8.3 billion in emergency spending to ensure that necessary resources are available for federal agencies to provide assistance and combat the COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The Chamber is committed to working closely with U.S. and foreign government officials, large and small businesses, and our entire federation of state, local, and international Chambers. Our shared collective goal is to ensure access to the most up-to-date and relevant information so that we are all adequately prepared to protect Americans at home and abroad. The more prepared we are as a business community and society, the better we will manage the effects of the virus.

We support the bill's provision of additional funds to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other organizations that advance health treatment and medical science. It is critical that we continue to provide health information to protect against costly and dangerous health threats. The CDC's laudable mission is to remain vigilant and respond quickly to fast travelling illnesses that may become epidemics.

In addition, this legislation realizes the potential negative economic impact that a prolonged epidemic could have on small businesses. We strongly support the inclusion of a structured low interest disaster loan program administered through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) would be a lifeline for small businesses impacted by the coronavirus.

Congress is taking the necessary steps to protect the American public and diffuse uncertainty that could have damaging long term effects on businesses and our economy. We urge Congress to act promptly to pass this supplemental spending bill and provide the funds necessary to combat the coronavirus.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley