



March 19, 2020

Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

We, the undersigned business leaders applaud your efforts to support small businesses during this crisis. In particular, we support two key aspects of your efforts.

First, an emergency loan program to support small businesses during this crisis, with loans made available through private banks, supported with a federal guarantee. Using the private banking system to provide these loans is critical, as small businesses need the liquidity immediately.

Second, including in the emergency loan program a clause that forgives a portion of the loan equal to an appropriate percentage of payroll (with an appropriate salary cap) for any business that keeps their employees on salary despite having to shut down.

Small business employers are job creators. Small business employers want to keep their employees on salary during this crisis. A small business emergency loan program that includes forgiveness for an appropriate percentage of payroll for any small business that keeps their employees on salary will allow small businesses to keep America employed.

This is not a bailout. Small businesses are closed and the employees are not working because of a government order.

This is not as costly as may appear. Individuals who are laid off will receive unemployment insurance. This effort would simply shift the payment from the unemployment system to an employment system. Our economy is better off paying someone to remain employed, rather than having them unemployed.

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**Independent Electrical
Contractors, Inc.**



This has long term benefits. The dislocation costs associated with widespread unemployment are severe. Once a person separates from their job, rehiring is less likely. And, maintaining employees on salary saves on future training costs.

This is superior to an outright small business grant, as the money would be provided in order to foster employment.

We thank you for your leadership, and hope both Republicans and Democrats can come together to support The Keeping Workers Paid and Employed Act.

Sincerely,

Job Creators Network
American Association of Orthodontists
American Hotel Lodging Association
American Society of Appraisers
American Society of Travel Advisors
Angel Capital Association
Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Associated Builders and Contractors National
Blue Roof Franchisee Association (IHOP)
Coalition of Franchise Associations
Council on International Educational Exchange
Denny's Franchisee Association
Dunkin' Donuts Independent Franchise Owners
FreedomWorks
Global Business Travel Association
Gusto
Independent Electrical Contractors
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Franchise Association
NAIOP | Commercial Real Estate Development Association
National Association of Landscape Professionals
National Association of REALTORS
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Retail Federation
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
The Payroll Group
The Real Estate Roundtable
Tree Care Industry Association
U.S. Travel Association