



Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer:

As an organization of small business owners and entrepreneurs representing over 500,000 members, we urge you to publicly support President Trump's payroll tax cut proposal to shore up the economy amid the coronavirus outbreak.

With Wall Street experiencing its worst week in over a decade, Congress must drop their partisan swords and work with the President to preserve the economic gains made by small businesses during this recovery. This is not a time to score political points.

Congress should immediately consider and approve a payroll tax cut for all small businesses. A payroll tax cut will give America's 30 million small business owners the financial flexibility they need to weather the economic fallout of the coronavirus. With this flexibility, America's small businesses will be better positioned to avoid layoffs and, in more extreme cases, avoid having to go out of business altogether.

However, we are discouraged to see many congressional Democrats oppose the President's plan within moments of his announcement. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) said it was dead on arrival and even called for increasing taxes by repealing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This kind of knee-jerk partisanship is the exact opposite of what Congress should be doing.

As the saying goes, "a pound of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and in this case, a payroll tax cut is the prevention we need to avoid a vicious economic cycle in which fewer businesses and fewer workers leads to even fewer businesses and even fewer workers. We must pull out all the stops to keep our economy afloat and to avoid an unnecessary economic downturn.

In 2010, President Obama led a successful effort to cut the payroll tax to help small businesses cope. In 2012, the payroll tax cut was extended in a bipartisan way, passing a Republican-controlled House and a Democrat-controlled Senate.

We have experienced tremendous economic growth over the past three years, but we should never take that growth for granted. As we saw during the "Great Recession," anti-growth policies can hinder entrepreneurship and expansion, keeping the unemployment rate artificially high for many records. President Trump's pro-growth policies have spurred the greatest economy in history, with two out of three new jobs coming from small businesses and the unemployment rate at its lowest level in generations. We urge you to build on this record of success.

The coronavirus is the very definition of a black swan event, which is why Congress must take smart, immediate action in a bipartisan way. We urge you to work with President Trump and pass a payroll tax cut for all small businesses.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Alfredo Ortiz  
President and CEO  
Job Creators Network