



April 14, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate Minority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer:

As an organization of small business owners and entrepreneurs representing over 500,000 members, we are appalled that you are stonewalling President Trump's request to save the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) with \$250 billion in additional funding.

The PPP is the centerpiece of the federal government's economic relief efforts – created by Congress in a bipartisan vote when it passed the CARES Act. The program, which was originally funded with \$349 billion, has been a lifeline for small business owners. In the first eleven days of the program, almost 1.1 million applications were approved totaling \$257 billion. Those numbers are increasing every day. At this rate, the PPP will run out of funds as soon as this week.

You CANNOT let this happen.

On April 9, Leader McConnell proposed an amendment to increase PPP funding by \$250 billion. Congressional Democrats, however – following your marching orders – refused to cooperate. They blocked Leader McConnell's amendment and the Senate was forced to adjourn.

By recklessly delaying PPP funding, you sent an unmistakable message to small businesses: DROP DEAD.

We are losing 33,000 jobs every hour of every day, which makes your partisan obstruction one of the most selfish, near-sighted moves in American political history. With a record 16.8 million Americans filing initial unemployment claims in the past three weeks, now is the time to quit playing politics and come together for the common good.

We, at JCN, call on you to support Leader McConnell's amendment for additional PPP funding – no strings attached – and rally Congress to pass it this week. No more delays, no more excuses.

As President Trump has repeatedly said, America's small businesses are the engine of our economy. We are 90 million strong. Before the coronavirus outbreak, two out of three new jobs were created by small businesses. Small businesses are essential to keeping our economy running and they will lead our economic recovery when the virus passes.

The PPP is a bipartisan success story. Let's keep it that way. Work with congressional Republicans to pass additional PPP funding immediately before the program runs out of money.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alfredo Ortiz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Alfredo Ortiz
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