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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives JIMMY GOMEZ

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKER AND FAMILY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

VICE CHAIR SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

ASSISTANT WHIP

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy House Majority Leader Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Senate Majority Leader Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Senate Minority Leader Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell:

As Congress works to respond to our nation's needs during the ongoing pandemic, I urge you to reauthorize and replenish relief programs that have served as a lifeline to millions of small businesses. Small businesses are a vital part of our communities and the economy but have struggled to keep their doors open through nearly two years of a public health crisis.

In the wake of the pandemic's widespread, adverse impact on our nation's economy, Congress authorized several programs to ensure the survival of small businesses and the livelihoods of the people they employ, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF), and the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant (SVOG) program. While the U.S. economy has shown promising growth, the spread of the latest omicron variant has dealt another blow to small businesses that rely on in-person services, such as the restaurant, hospitality, fitness, live event, and travel industries.

Due to overwhelming need and insufficient funds, most of these programs have completely exhausted, leaving hundreds of thousands of small business owners without the relief Congress promised them. In the past year alone, my caseworkers have helped over 170 small businesses receive over \$11 million in federal relief. However, many small business-related casework inquiries remain unresolved due to the lack of federal funding.

I urge you to support the reauthorization and replenishment of these small business relief programs so all eligible applicants can receive desperately needed assistance, especially those in hard-to-reach communities.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Gomez Member of Congress