



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate

State Chambers of Commerce Urge You to Secure America's Future Now

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell:

As leaders of America's business community, the Council of State Chambers of Commerce urges you to unite today and pass bipartisan legislation that keeps our economy intact, protects our American way of life, and prevents the imminent shedding of millions of jobs. Make no mistake, our economy is likely headed for a deep recession. While we commend you on the swift passage of two important legislative packages to deal with the coronavirus, it is clear from the massive economic contraction already underway that much more must be done. The package should roughly match the minimum time (at least 8-12 weeks) expected for CDC-recommended social distancing guidelines to remain in place. And it must be in motion expeditiously. Meaning today.

Specifically, we encourage you to pass legislation that would:

- Help businesses of all sizes improve their liquidity — so that they can support their employees — by delaying or suspending the remittance of all payroll taxes.
- Expand and streamline loan programs for as many businesses as possible experiencing revenue loss as a result of the coronavirus and allow those businesses to convert the loans to grants to the extent that they use the funds to pay their employees.
- Enable the creation of credit facilities to provide loans and loan guarantees to all employers negatively impacted by the coronavirus so that they can maintain operations and pay their employees.

We also support measures that responsibly provide workers with additional temporary benefits so long as they do not add additional stress to businesses trying to retain their employees. We were pleased to see these items along with others recommended by state chambers of commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce included in the package unveiled in the Senate on Sunday. We share the principle articulated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that no family or business should be bankrupted as a result of the coronavirus.

State chambers across the country are doing their part, uniting hundreds of thousands of businesses and working with their governors and state legislatures to keep the economy open. We're counting on you to lead and we all stand ready to continue helping American business survive and eventually thrive as the future of our way of life depends on it.

In unity for America's future,

Mark Wilson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Wilson' in a cursive script.

Chair, Council of State Chambers of Commerce
President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce