

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

By (INSERT NAME)

Title, Name of Local Chamber

WORD COUNT: 315

**How Small Businesses Move Forward**

As Floridians track the daily statistics on COVID-19, while also keeping our families and those combating this pandemic in our hearts and minds, we're gaining a clearer picture for another set of startling data. The economic impact of COVID-19 will, by many expert projections, lead to a prolonged recession.

Before COVID-19, Florida was the 17<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, we were creating 1 out of 11 new U.S. jobs, we were the 20<sup>th</sup> most diversified economy, the third largest state in the country and growing by 900 people a day. Balancing the right health and safety outcomes with the right "re-start" of Florida's economy is vital, and the (INSERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NAME) is helping lead the way.

There are economic models that show, the wrong re-start approach, combined with too much relaxing of testing, could prolong our economic recovery into 2023 – yes, 2023.

We're following the facts, and the facts show that restarting Florida's economy will not be a one-size-fits-all approach. From the beginning of this pandemic, we've been working with the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and are honored to be on their Chamber Restart and Recovery Task Force, while also collaborating with our local leaders on a common framework that customizes the safest and smartest regional reopening as possible.

Now is the time to look ahead to how we will restart, recover and reimagine (INSERT CITY/COUNTY/REGION). No one is better positioned to unite business and community leaders around common objectives than your local chamber of commerce and economic developers.

Aligning local, state and national guidelines for reopening Florida in a strategic way will help ensure the safety of all Floridians.

Just like you, we're boots on the ground, and we're committed to helping small business restart and recover. A thoughtful and deliberate strategy that restarts the economy with safety at its core, will be the key to how small businesses move forward.

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