

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

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

As you continue your negotiations on the American Rescue Plan and independent COVID-related bills, it is critical that we include grants to restaurants modeled after existing legislation such as the RESTAURANTS Act of 2021.

We are quickly approaching the one-year mark since the COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed American life and left millions of Americans without jobs and small businesses with unprecedented financial challenges. While we have provided critical assistance to small businesses through various programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program, there is a need for additional targeted assistance for those businesses most impacted by the pandemic.

Restaurants are the beating heart of every community, but the COVID-19 pandemic is putting the survival of America's 500,000 independent restaurants and their 11 million employees in jeopardy every single day. Since the pandemic upended American life, thousands of local restaurants have been forced to close their doors. Many of these businesses face an uncertain future. From family farmers in Goodhue County to restaurants in the heart of Minneapolis – every link in the restaurant supply chain is affected.

We commend you for the intention to include a grant program for restaurants in the recently filed joint budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2021; however, we ask that this grant relief program remain a top priority as negotiations take place.

We need to get Minnesota's restaurants targeted relief as quickly as possible, whether by way of a larger relief package or by passing the RESTAURANTS Act of 2021 immediately. Our constituents and communities cannot wait any longer.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to partnering with you to save independent restaurants in Minnesota and all across America.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress