



December 4, 2020

The Honorable Bill Keating  
United States House of Representatives  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Keating,

On behalf of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and our 1,300 member companies, I am writing to urge you to support an additional Coronavirus relief package before the end of 2020. It is critical for small businesses and families that Congress pass pandemic relief as soon as possible.

We know that enacting a bill will require bipartisan compromise. The release of a proposal from a bipartisan group of Senate and House members as well as the revisions to the Senate GOP proposal provide an opening to break the current impasse. We encourage you to push for a bipartisan agreement that can pass this year. The cost of Congress failing to act could be catastrophic for Massachusetts:

- According to recent Census Bureau polling,
  - 28.7% of Massachusetts residents expect to [lose employment income](#) in the next month
  - 5.8% are either [not current on their rent or mortgage](#) or have little confidence they can make next month's payment
- On December 26, CARES Act [unemployment benefits](#) for more than 314,000 individuals in Massachusetts will expire.
- Small businesses in Massachusetts have seen a 41.6% reduction in revenue compared to January 2020 and almost 40% of small businesses [are closed](#).
- Nearly 33.9% of Massachusetts small businesses saw a [drop](#) in revenue this month.
- 118,000 Massachusetts small businesses [received assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program](#).
  - But nearly all have exhausted their PPP funding and nearly 30% [expect](#) to need additional financial assistance in the next six months.

We strongly urge you to include provisions that would expand the PPP to provide support for all non-profits including 501(c)(6)s; provide meaningful liability protection like those included in the Safe to Work Act; and include relief and support for the childcare infrastructure that our workforce relies upon.

Your efforts to complete a pandemic relief bill prior to the end of the year will save countless small businesses and families across the Commonwealth. Thank you for considering our urgent appeal and for your continued service to our country during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James E. Rooney'.

James E. Rooney  
President & CEO  
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce