

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

As Congress negotiates an additional legislative response to the COVID-19 crisis, it is vital that we work together to provide substantial economic assistance to struggling businesses in the foodservice and hospitality industries. In order to protect workers' paychecks and support major employers in New Hampshire communities, we write to urge you to prioritize direct economic relief that will help restaurants and hospitality businesses through the difficult months ahead.

In 2020, Congress worked on a bipartisan basis to provide significant support to small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program, the Employee Retention Tax Credit, and other federal programs. Although these programs provided necessary relief to help keep restaurants and hospitality businesses afloat, these industries continue to be hit hard by the ongoing health and economic crisis. From February to December 2020, New Hampshire lost 12,800 foodservice and hospitality jobs – representing over 26 percent of the workforce in these industries. As these extremely concerning statistics show, it is absolutely essential that the next COVID relief package target assistance to help struggling restaurant and hospitality businesses and their employees.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent issue as Congress works to provide small businesses from all sectors with the tailored relief they need to stay afloat through the COVID-19 crisis.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator