

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

April 1, 2020

Dear Fellow Alabamian:

As we all know, Alabama's *small business community is critical* to our economy and essential to our future. As such, I want to provide important information to all of our small business owners as, together, we battle through these turbulent and unprecedented times.

Final guidance from Washington on how the federal stimulus dollars will be distributed is being written at this very moment. And here is one thing you can take to the bank... you can't afford to wait to prepare.

Today, you need to contact your local banker, accountant, financial advisor or credit union to get the latest details about who is eligible, what documents are needed and how best to apply for funding relief caused by COVID-19. *It is absolutely imperative that you act now; time is of the essence.*

Preparing in advance will put you one BIG step ahead of other businesses around the nation who will be competing with you for the limited amount of funds that are available.

Friends, your elected leaders in state government are pulling together unlike any time in recent memory.

The Alabama Legislature, led by House Speaker Mac McCutcheon and Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh, are working in a bipartisan way with their colleagues on both sides of the political aisle, including House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels and Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton, to consider legislative relief that the State of Alabama can provide to our small businesses. And my own administration has already relaxed several requirements to help soften the blow of this economic tsunami caused by this health care crisis.

Moreover, Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, who I asked to chair the Small Business Commission in 2018, has activated the commission to assist small businesses to adopt best practices even as many are struggling to stay open. And Attorney General Steve Marshall has been vigilant in making certain that scam artists and counterfeiters – who falsely promise essential medical supplies that our hospitals and health care providers need – are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

These are just a few examples of some of the many efforts of your state leaders.

Fellow Alabamian

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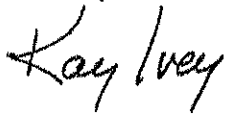
Make no mistake, COVID-19 has disrupted life as we know it, including the critical economic role played by Alabama small businesses. And because of your hard work and entrepreneurship, our economy in Alabama – prior to the outbreak – was the strongest ever reported in Alabama’s 200-plus years of statehood.

To be prepared for when “life returns to normal,” *Alabama needs you – and your business – to be up and running and back at full employment as soon as possible.* That’s why I want to urge you to act today and get prepared to apply for assistance that is designed to help our small businesses. *Being prepared is the best way – the only way – to give you the opportunity to get in front of the line when relief checks are written.* Attached is important information from the Small Business Administration that will provide more information.

Please don’t waste another minute. Contact your financial advisors right now and begin gathering payroll and financial documents as you get ready to take action.

Please do not hesitate to call on my administration if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kay Ivey
Governor