April 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
United States Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
United States Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Additional Small Business Funding and 501(c)6 Inclusion in Next Round of COVID-19 Relief

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

We, the undersigned national organizations and our collective state and local affiliates are the top advocates for America’s diverse entrepreneurs and workforce. Many of the organizations represented herein are members of the National Business Inclusion Consortium (NBIC). Collectively, the NBIC organizations represent over $9 trillion in economic impact, as well as tens of thousands of tax-paying, industry-innovating jobs. Collectively, our organizations encourage parity in cross-segment diversity and inclusion initiatives, work to identify areas of collaboration among diverse businesses, and advocates for the advancement of policies that support the growth of diverse-owned companies in both the public and private sectors: including support for our businesses in times of crisis.

We are grateful for recent relief measures taken to protect our communities’ small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. However, many small and diverse owned businesses, already facing challenges due to marginalization and historic under investment, were not able to take advantage of the first round. We strongly urge you to make more money available and to prioritize America’s diverse economy.

Our organizations and our affiliate chamber partners also urge you to include 501(c)6 business organizations in any upcoming federal aid packages or supplemental appropriations measures, as many have been and will be harmed economically by COVID-19, just as our 501(c)3 peers continue to be. Our specific organizations are primarily 501(c)(6) organizations that employ thousands of team members across the country and provide work for countless contractors throughout the year.

While advocacy for small business is but one facet of our operation, organizations like ours are essential partners to both government and businesses of all sizes. We are the trusted community partners of the small business owners and nonprofits who need this relief most, and who trust our ability to offer them invaluable resources to stay afloat and keep their teams employed. For relief
efforts to be successful, we must ensure all community-facing business organizations, including the 501(c)6s represented here who have the most intimate relationships with job creating small businesses, receive the resources they need to succeed as well.

Our organizations play a key role in connecting small diverse owned companies to contract and RFP opportunities that are the lifeblood of any small business and its ability to be successful.

Our organizations play a key role in educating small businesses on everything from financial literacy to writing a capabilities statement to leadership development and building an inclusive team.

Our organizations are called upon by the collective membership to help decipher economic development programs, including those developed specifically for COVID-19. Simply put, we are the key resource in helping businesses thrive, become a bigger part of the tax base and employ more people.

We would not object to stipulations that relief funds received by a 501(c)6 organization, may not be used for any lobbying expenses, employee size or industry representation as stipulated in the current amendment being discussed. We recognize the importance of accountability and transparency during this crisis.

We thank you for your leadership and standby to assist you with information to help you ensure that another round of relief funds is allocated for small businesses and that all tax-exempt entities be included in any temporary aid designed to stem the economic fallout resulting from COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Justin Nelson
Co-Founder & President
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Ron Busby
President & CEO
US Black Chambers Inc.

Candace Waterman
President & CEO
Women Impacting Public Policy

Ramiro Cavazos
President & CEO
US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Chiling Tong
President & CEO
Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship
In partnership with:
ACE NextGen
African American Business Leaders Council of Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce
Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce
American Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce Las Vegas
Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Asian American Business Assistance Center
Asian American Executive Network
Asian Business Association
Asian Chamber of Commerce
Asian Chamber of Texas (ACT) previously known as Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce
Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce
Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Austin Young Chamber
Balch Springs Chamber
Brazoria County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Brooklyn NY Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Cal Asian Chamber of Commerce
Charlotte LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Civitas Regional Chamber of Commerce
Colorado LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce
Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Chamber (CTGLC)
Desert Business Association
Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Diversity Chamber of Central Ohio
Equality Chamber of Commerce DC
Florida Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada
Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Golden Gate Business Association
Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater San Jose Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
GSBA, Washington State's LGBTQ and Allied Chamber
Guatemala Chamber of Commerce
Gulf South LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Business OutReach
Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Coastal Virginia
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
Hispanic Chamber of E-Commerce
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Orlando
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana
Hispanic Chambers of Commerce San Francisco
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Independence Business Alliance
Iowa LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Keystone Business Alliance
Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte
Latin Chamber of Commerce Nevada
Latino Chamber of Commerce of SE Wisconsin Inc.
Leaders Forum
LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois
LGBTQ Business Council of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber
Long Beach Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce
Maryland LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Savannah Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Morris County Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce
Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Nashville LGBT Chamber
New Jersey Chinese-American Chamber of Commerce
nglccNY: New York’s LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Nicaraguan American Chamber of Commerce Northern California
NJ LGBT Chamber of Commerce
North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
OUT Georgia Business Alliance
Quorum: Twin Cities LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Rainbow Chamber Silicon Valley
Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Regional Hispanic Contractors Association
Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Rio Grande Valley Partnership
San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Equality Business Association
South Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Seattle Latino Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
St. Louis LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ
Tampa Bay LGBT Chamber
Tennessee Latin American Chamber of Commerce
Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce
The Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce
The National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce
The Pride Chamber of Orlando
The United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
Utah LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Hispanic Chamber
West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Women's Business Council of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber

CC: Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez
    Chairman Richard Neal
    Chairwoman Nita Lowey
    Ranking Member Steve Chabot
    Ranking Member Kevin Brady
    Ranking Member Kay Granger