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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 14, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

As work continues on final FY 2022 omnibus appropriations bill, I write to express my support for including a strong COVID-19 relief package aimed at providing support to individuals and small businesses that are still reeling from the ongoing pandemic.

Over the course of this pandemic, Congress has responded to the cries and needs in our communities by passing a series of strong bills, including the American Rescue Plan Act in early 2021, that provided much needed support to individuals and small businesses across our country. Yet, unfortunately, between the omicron and delta variants, this deadly disease continues to take a toll on our communities and economy, with over 100,000 Americans dying in the last two months alone from COVID-19 and millions more being infected.

Unfortunately, while COVID related numbers were going in the wrong direction recently, many of the aid programs that Congress established were already closed or winding down, including those focused on helping our small businesses. Additionally, even while operational, some of the small business programs enacted to help small businesses were hit with delays, which affected their ability to get aid out quickly, while others were quickly overwhelmed by the demand, which left many applicants without help once the funding was exhausted. For example, the SBA's Restaurant Revitalization Fund received more than 272,000 applications totaling more than \$70 billion in requests for the \$28 billion provided by Congress.

As you know small businesses have been hard hit by this pandemic, especially those that are centered on in-person gatherings, such as restaurants, hotels, live event venues, and gyms. Pandemic related revenue losses and business closures were steepest among such businesses. At one point in the pandemic, restaurants and bars accounted for 1 in 4 job losses affecting a disproportionately vulnerable workforce, a significant share of whom are people of color, women, immigrants, single mothers, and young people

We know that this pandemic is clearly not over. Many restaurants in my district had to close because of the Omicron surge in December – a critical month for restaurants. And I know that other small businesses were similarly affected.

As you finalize FY 22 omnibus, it is critical that you include a new, comprehensive COVID relief package that includes additional aid for small businesses such as restaurants which may be forced to close without further assistance. They are critical to the economic and social backbone of our communities and supporting them and their employees through these trying times will help us achieve the President's Build Back Better vision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gwen Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gwen" and last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

Gwen Moore  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CC: The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair, House Appropriations Committee