



December 3, 2020

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
127A Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cruz,

On behalf of the Greater Houston Partnership, representing the business community of the 12-county greater Houston region, we urge the passage of pandemic relief and encourage you to push for a bipartisan agreement that can pass this year.

We hope you will support a pandemic relief package that includes the following priorities:

1. Business Liability Protections

We urge you to support a package containing liability protections for all employers, businesses, schools, colleges, and non-profits that follow public health guidelines. Employers and businesses who make reasonable efforts to follow public health guidelines should not be held liable for personal injuries or medical liability associated with COVID-19 infections. Additionally, front-line health workers and hospitals need appropriate liability protections while working under pandemic conditions. Similar to Good Samaritan laws, hospitals, front-line health workers, and other health care entities should be protected from liability except in cases of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

2. Paycheck Protection Program

There is a need for additional financial assistance for our small businesses in the next six months, and we urge the continuation of the Paycheck Protection Program and the inclusion of additional funding to help our small business stay afloat. Additionally, we urge the inclusion of support for all non-profits, including 501(c)(6)s, as eligible recipients of PPP assistance.

3. Continued Funding for State and Local Governments for Pandemic Response

The next stimulus package should include additional aid to states and cities for their continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including to prepare for mass distribution of forthcoming vaccines. Our city and state agencies have provided essential COVID-19 testing and pandemic response services to the people of greater Houston and will now be tasked with leading the charge to distribute the vaccine to our community on a massive scale. We request your support in including additional federal aid for state, local, and tribal governments to respond to the pandemic effectively.

We are encouraged by the outline that the bipartisan House and Senate members have released, and we appreciate the revisions and efforts to move the Senate Republican proposal forward. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff on these priorities.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Bob Harvey
President & CEO