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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2211

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EMPLOYMENT, LABOR & PENSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE  
PROTECTIONS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
CHAIR

UNITED STATES HOUSE SCIENCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

April 22, 2020

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez  
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot  
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Velázquez and Ranking Member Chabot,

Thank you for your continued leadership to help our country's small businesses as they struggle with heartbreaking decisions on how to meet payroll costs and rent bills while keeping their employees safe and healthy during this global COVID-19 pandemic. While the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is an important part of helping small businesses to meet these challenges, we need greater transparency and guardrails to enable improved access to PPP funds for all eligible borrowers.

Through the rollout of PPP and the initial lending data, it appears that the funding has not been widely disbursed to those the program was intended to serve. According to the Small Business Administration's accounting update for the initial phase of the PPP program, four percent of the loans were for over \$1 million, consisting of nearly 45 percent of the total money disbursed through the program. Congress needs to ensure greater transparency on who is receiving these loans to ensure that borrowers who are asking for smaller amounts are prioritized as well.

Another issue with the initial phase of PPP has been the level of funding given to the states who have been hit with the most severe economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. My home state of Michigan has been hit particularly hard with the sixth highest rate of cases in the country and nearly a quarter of the state's workforce applying for unemployment. Despite this clear need, Michigan is currently 35 out of 50 states when it comes to PPP loans processed. According to SBA data, many states with the most COVID-19 cases also rank in the bottom third of states receiving PPP loans while states with a low number of COVID-19 cases have received the greatest number of PPP loans.

Since the PPP began, I have heard from small businesses in my district about obstacles that have prevented them from getting the necessary funds, from the lack of guidance and oversight for lenders to the lack of transparency in distribution. I look forward to working with your committee and our leadership on additional guardrails and protections to ensure access to this program for all eligible borrowers.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haley M. Stevens", followed by a horizontal line.

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader