

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 21, 2020

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

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

As the House prepares to vote this weekend on a bill to protect the United States Postal Service, we urge you to restart bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on a fifth COVID-19 relief package that is commensurate with the scale of this public health and economic crisis. Although there are meaningful differences between the *HEROES Act* and the *HEALS Act*, there is also considerable common ground. In an era of divided government, the reality is that only bipartisan solutions will deliver much-needed support, and that requires principled compromise by both parties.

We believe the following priorities—among others—can obtain bipartisan support, and we urge you to include them in the next legislative package:

1. **Extension of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits:** The number of Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and who rely on UI benefits is staggering. This weekly benefit should be extended to enable beneficiaries to provide for their families and to support their local economies.
2. **Measures to keep workers connected to their jobs:** Both the *HEROES Act* and the *HEALS Act* expand the employee retention tax credit (ERTC) established in the *CARES Act*. We urge continued support for this bipartisan provision, which will enable millions of businesses to keep tens of millions of workers tethered to their jobs and to their employer-sponsored health care. Additionally, we urge support for *H.R. 7481, the RESTART Act*, a bipartisan bill that provides

for the Small Business Administration to guarantee loans made to certain businesses affected by COVID-19.

3. **Support for state, local, and tribal governments; K-12 schools; and institutions of higher education:** It is imperative that we provide additional financial support to state, local, and tribal governments. They serve on the frontline of our national response to this pandemic. Absent fair federal funding, state, local, and tribal governments will have no choice but to make painful budget cuts to key services like police and fire departments, or to raise taxes for already-struggling families and businesses. In addition, we are pleased there is bipartisan, bicameral support for robust additional funding to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. We urge that such funding be provided without unreasonable conditions.
4. **A second round of economic impact payments:** Both the *HEROES Act* and the *HEALS Act* provide for a second round of economic impact payments, which have been a lifeline for many of our constituents, and it is clear we can swiftly forge a compromise with respect to the value of payments and eligibility for payments.
5. **Stronger oversight of COVID spending:** We reiterate [our call](#) for stronger spending oversight measures in order to protect taxpayer dollars. During this pandemic, every federal dollar wasted is a dollar less to support our health care system, our workers, and our businesses. Protecting taxpayer money should be the ultimate bipartisan cause.

Our constituents sent us to Congress to find bipartisan solutions that move this country forward. The current stalemate is punishing families and destabilizing our economy. Congress must do all that it can to keep workers tethered to their jobs, assist the unemployed, support our health care workers and our health care system, and ensure that businesses who do right by their workers are given the necessary resources and protections to survive. We must keep negotiating, no matter how difficult. Inaction is not an option.

Sincerely,



REP. STEPHANIE MURPHY (FL-07)  
Co-Chair for Administration  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. TOM O'HALLERAN (AZ-01)  
Co-Chair for Policy  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. LOU CORREA (CA-46)  
Co-Chair for Communications  
Blue Dog Coalition



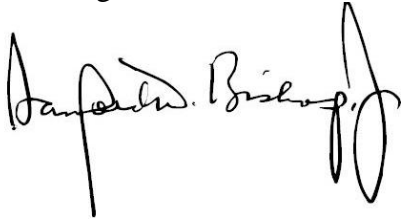
REP. ANTHONY BRINDISI (NY-22)  
Co-Chair for Whip  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. KURT SCHRADER (OR-05)  
Co-Chair  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. MIKIE SHERRILL (NJ-11)  
Member  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. SANFORD BISHOP (GA-02)  
Member  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. DANIEL LIPINSKI (IL-03)  
Member  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. JIM COSTA (CA-16)  
Member  
Blue Dog Coalition



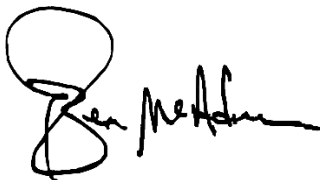
REP. JOSH GOTTHEIMER (NJ-05)  
Member  
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REP. KENDRA HORN (OK-05)  
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REP. MAX ROSE (NY-11)  
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REP. BEN MCADAMS (UT-04)  
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REP. ED CASE (HI-01)  
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REP. JOE CUNNINGHAM (SC-01)  
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REP. DAVID SCOTT (GA-13)  
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REP. JARED GOLDEN (ME-02)  
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REP. CHARLIE CRIST (FL-13)  
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REP. HENRY CUELLAR (TX-28)  
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REP. VICENTE GONZALEZ (TX-15)  
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