

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4606**

September 17, 2020

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

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

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy and Minority Leader Schumer:

I am writing again to ensure that the priorities and concerns of Iowans are included in the next COVID-19 relief package. Only weeks ago, Iowa experienced one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in the country and I want to make sure you know what is on the line as negotiations for another package continue.

On August 3, 2020, I shared with you some of the stories that my office has received from Iowans. From losing loved ones to frustrated business owners to frontline workers scared of getting sick, their experiences are heartbreaking and unfortunately, little has changed for these families in the month since. For many of those in communities hit by the derecho's hurricane force winds on August 10, 2020, life has only become harder. The hearing that I held in the Small Business Committee earlier last week only underscored the immediate need to provide additional relief to workers and small businesses.

As Chairwoman of the House Small Business Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade and Entrepreneurship Subcommittee, I invited two Iowans—a small business owner and childcare provider—to testify before Congress on September 10, 2020. We heard what a unique challenge COVID-19 has created for rural economies and what actions we can take now to encourage rural development and entrepreneurship. Looking at the lessons learned from the Great Recession, Congress must take an innovative and proactive approach to ensuring the success of rural businesses coming out of this pandemic.

Economic recovery cannot truly begin though while our employers are struggling during a pandemic, a record-breaking number of Iowans still without work, and millions of lives remain at risk. Yesterday, a bipartisan group of our colleagues from the Problem Solvers Caucus

released a plan to provide COVID-19 relief and extend key programs like supplemental unemployment insurance, economic impact payments, and provide state and local aid to our struggling communities. While this plan may not be perfect, it represents an important bipartisan agreement that is worth considering and provides an opportunity to restart stalled negotiations. Congress and the White House must get back to the negotiating table and continue making progress on this critical issue.

With that, I respectfully reiterate that the next bipartisan relief package prioritizes the following:

#### Direct Support for Iowa Families

Our next package should include additional financial assistance. Specifically, the next bill should provide expanded economic impact payments to families who need them. It's also critical that we extend supplemental unemployment benefits and provide resources to our states as needed to continue this critical program.

#### Assistance for State & Local Government

We need to make sure that our communities are safe and that essential services continue by providing more direct assistance to our state and local governments, who are facing budget shortfalls of millions of dollars with no way to recoup lost revenues.

#### Support for the United States Postal Service (USPS)

We are all hearing of the growing backlog at the Postal Service and the importance of deliveries at this time. While our Postal Service has long been in jeopardy, aid is needed now more than ever. Any future package should include additional support for USPS.

#### Funding for Schools and Childcare Providers

Iowa families are struggling with childcare options while schools and childcare providers worry about the safety of their operations and facilities. We need to make sure that our children's education is not interrupted, regardless of whether it happens in the classroom or at home. Parents should not have to make heartbreaking decisions between keeping kids safe and returning to work. Funding is needed for additional training and guidance as well as infrastructure improvements, personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and distance learning support, such as broadband.

#### Health and Safety Protections

We need to continue to take every precaution when it comes to controlling the spread of the virus. I urge that the next package include strong worker protections along with significant investments in expanding testing and tracing. We also need to start planning now for the upcoming election and include funding for vote-by-mail initiatives.

#### Assistance for Iowa Industries

We need to improve and expand the resources available to businesses who are trying to reopen and adapt. We should look at ways to incentivize the production of PPE and other critical supplies and safety infrastructure, giving our manufacturers the opportunity to compete to new contracts. We should also explore changing the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan to allow businesses to take out a second

loan if needed or have existing debt forgiven while ensuring artificial caps don't hurt our businesses. These programs should also treat all businesses fairly—like our farmers. Lastly, we need direct aid for key industries that have been left behind, like our biofuels producers.

Again, I look forward to working with you as we work to craft a bipartisan package that provides real relief to the families, businesses, and frontline workers who need it most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abby', followed by a stylized flourish.

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress