

Thank you again for speaking with our Maplewood and South Orange business advocacy group this morning regarding relief for our small businesses and independent contractors.

Here are the points we discussed:

Grants in addition to loans for Small Businesses with less than 25 employees

Why: incremental debt will adversely impact the health of small businesses in the current and long term.

Cash flow is needed to subsidize lost income due to the coronavirus for operations/overhead expenses including:

- Payroll
- Rent
- Utilities

Small Businesses have operational budgets that result in razor thin margins. Having only the ability to add zero interest debt service to keep our doors open will result in putting many downtown and small business owners out of business and business owners and independent contractors will go bankrupt.

Exemption for Small Business

The PTO and Family Leave bill that passed the house yesterday results in adding more undue financial hardship to our small businesses. An exemption for small businesses with less than 25 employees is necessary so we can continue to meet payroll and other operational expenses without the added burden of PTO and Leave. The proposed tax credits will not solve for this when applied to small businesses.

Relief for Operational Expenses

Why: Home Rent/mortgages, commercial rents, electricity, gas, wifi bills continue to accumulate and without income, we cannot meet the required payments.

Small business owners and independent contractors need assistance with:

- Housing costs
- Commercial rents and
- Utility bills

Medical Insurance Premium Relief

Most independent contractors and small business owners buy their insurance through the marketplace and we need premium payment relief.

Independent Contractors are also a pillar in most municipalities' economies

They are photographers, videographers, video & photo editors, makeup artists, artists, musicians, actors, writers, designers (graphic designers and interior design), tattoo artists, massage therapists, dog walkers and other occupations.

Business Interruption Insurance

The state of NJ has a bill regarding business interruption insurance coverage.

Right now the insurance companies exclude viruses. The state of NJ's bill says that COVID-19 should be a qualifier. The insurance companies are fighting against it. We need the power of a federal bill that makes COVID-19 eligible for business interruption coverage.

861,373 small businesses in the state of New Jersey [make up 99.6% of all the Garden State's businesses and employ more than 1.8 million workers](#). **Nearly 50% of all the private sector employees** in the state.

[Small Businesses and independent contractors are responsible for 50% of the jobs in our state](#).

We cannot overstate the importance of these safeguards, not just to our small business community and independent contractors, but to the overall health of our economy. New Jersey's small businesses are an essential component to the 10th district and the NJ state economy.

Again, thank you for taking the time to listen and for advocating for us with Congressman Payne. Please let us know what else we can do to assist your efforts.