URGE U.S. HOUSE TO PASS (H.R. 266) CORONAVIRUS BILL

URGENT Action Alert
URGENT ACTION ALERT

DATE: April 22, 2020

URGENT ACTION ALERT TITLE:

THE LATEST CORONAVIRUS RELIEF BILL, H.R.266, THE "PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM AND HEALTH ENHANCEMENT ACT" TO RECEIVE FINAL VOTE ON THURSDAY, 4/23/2020, BEFORE BEING SENT TO THE PRESIDENT

URGE YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPPORT THE BILL, H.R. 266, WHICH PROVIDES $484 BILLION TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES, HOSPITALS, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

THE ISSUE:

Late in the afternoon of Tuesday, 4/21/2020, the U.S. Senate passed, by voice vote, HR 266, a bill to provide $484 billion to small businesses, hospitals and health care providers who are among those hardest hit by the Coronavirus pandemic, or COVID-19.

We must now urge the United States House of Representatives to take up and pass the bill, so that it can go to President Trump for his signature. The President has indicated he will sign H.R. 266; the House has scheduled a vote for Thursday, 4/23/2020.

The NAACP-supported H.R. 266 provides more than $320 billion to replenish the now-empty "Paycheck Protection Program," (PPP) a small business loans program which ran out of funds after less than two weeks, (while some smaller banks were still trying to figure out how to administer the program). The PPP was first implemented in late March in the more than $2 trillion "Coronavirus Aid, Response, and Economic Stimulus Act" (CARES Act). H.R. 266 also contains $18 billion for states and localities to conduct COVID-19 tests and up to $1 billion to cover tests for the uninsured.

Included in the additional $320 billion for the PPP is $30 billion dedicated to community-based lenders like Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) with assets of less than $10 million and another $30 billion dedicated to small banks and credit unions with assets between $10 million and $50 million. Together, this $60 billion will help unbanked and underserved businesses can access the PPP, including minority businesses, rural businesses, mom-and-pop businesses, and non-profits. This $60 billion was among the demands of the NAACP to help the communities we serve and represent recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. A letter led by the NAACP was sent to Congress on Monday morning, 4/20/2020, demanding, among other things, "At least $60 billion of the expanded PPP lending authority go to MDIs and CDFIs, with priority placed on MDIs and CDFIs led by people of color." The economic effects of OVID-19, not to mention the health and societal effects, have hit our community especially hard.

While H.R. 266 does provide some support to small businesses and hospitals more should - and must - be done to help our communities. That is why the NAACP will continue to advocate for additional funds for states and localities to help implement safe, secure, voting procedures that will enable the maximum number of eligible Americans to cast their ballot in November; we will continue to argue for the affordable expansion of fast, reliable broadband to all communities; we will continue to struggle for our communities to get their fair share of any and all economic stimulus monies; and we will continue to fight for equality in health care. These are just a few of the challenges that lie ahead.

STAY CONNECTED  Facebook  Twitter  Instagram  @NAACP
TAKE ACTION NOW!

Contact your Representative and URGE HIM OR HER TO SUPPORT HR 266, THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM AND HEALTH ENHANCEMENT ACT, and to continue to fight for all Americans to benefit from any COVID-19 relief bill; especially the communities most decimated by the virus. To contact Representative, you may:

MAKE A PHONE CALL
Call your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to his or her offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

SEND AN EMAIL
To send an email to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and on the home page click "Representatives". This will allow you to click your Representative either by state or by name. Click on your Representative and you will be directed to his/her web page, which will have instructions on how to send an e-mail. The homepage of www.house.gov also has a tool to help find your representative.

WRITE A LETTER
To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

THE MESSAGE

○ The bill before us, which adds money to the now-empty Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and provides much-needed funds for hospitals and health care providers also contains important, NAACP-requested funds to be targeted to our community through Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), small banks and credit unions, and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs);

○ It is becoming clear that our communities, our neighborhoods, our families, African Americans and people of color overall are being disproportionately harmed by this virus;

○ While we appreciate the good that has been done so far, we know that much more must be done, and that there is no room for discrimination or omission in the relief packages.

STAY CONNECTED  @NAACP
(date)

The Honorable
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support Passage of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Enhancement Act (HR 266)

Dear Representative;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support HR 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Enhancement Act when it comes before you on Thursday, 4/23/2020, but I also urge you to fight for the inclusion of provisions to assist the communities most damaged in any future relief legislation. To fail to do so would lead to the physical, if not moral, bankruptcy of our nation.

It has become clear that we are all suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet to date much of the relief has targeted only certain sectors of society. We must do all we can to make everyone in our nation whole again, or risk the consequences. We must promote equity and a sense of fairness; we must help our brothers and sisters in their time of need. As a federal legislator, you should do all you can to see that the monies for health care, education, and economic renewal reach every community and every neighborhood in this nation, and that every citizen is offered the chance to rebuild, regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, station in life, or any other defining characteristic.

HR 266 begins to fill some much-needed gaps, but more must be done. I support HR 266, and urge you to as well. I also urge you to support sensible spending where it will do the most good, and to make every citizen of our nation whole again.

Please contact me in the near future and share with me some of the things you are fighting for in the next relief bill, and please let me know what more I can do to promote my ideals.

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your Representative TODAY
ACTION ALERT
SIGN-UP

*Please Print Clearly*

Name
Title
Address/P.O. Box
City State Zip Code
Home Telephone Cell Phone
Email
Branch Name
Branch Address