



March 22, 2020

Honorable Marco Rubio, Chairman
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rubio,

America's SBDC, the association representing the 63 small business development center (SBDC) networks and their nearly 1,000 centers, wishes to express its strong support for the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act). The work you and your colleagues have done is critically needed. The CARES Act is both timely and necessary to ensure the survival and economic strength of the small business community which is the very foundation of the economic strength of the Nation.

At every SBDC we hear the same concerns from our hundreds of thousands of small business clients. They are worried about their employees and worried about the businesses that support them and their communities. Small business owners are ready to do the right thing by their employees, their extended family, but they face massive losses of revenue as the pandemic continues. Their worry is not merely how to support their employees in a time of crisis but also how to ensure that they, and their employees, have a future.

This is why America's SBDC supports the CARES Act. It will bring relief to cash strapped small businesses and offer them the prospect of a future. It will support them in their desire to aid their employees, and keep their businesses, their investment in the American Dream, alive. By expanding eligibility for the 7(a) loan program, expanding the scope of uses of loan proceeds, increasing the loan amounts, increasing the guarantee to 100 percent, and by providing the option of forgiveness for supporting their payrolls, the CARES Act will give small business owners an essential source of capital to help their staffs and their firms. Likewise, the deferment of payments ensures that small business borrowers under the CARES Act will have much needed breathing room before beginning repayment.

We also wish to express our strong support for the provisions providing immediate grant funding for small businesses under the US Small Business Administration's 7(b) EIDL program. This provision will give small businesses, particularly the smallest, access to immediate financial support that they desperately need.

In addition, the tax provisions included in the CARES Act will be of substantial help to small businesses. By delaying payroll tax payment and estimated tax payment deadlines the CARES Act will help them maximize cash flow to assist during this critical time and provide the stability the small business community needs to weather this storm. Their employees will benefit as well through the individual rebates which will provide essential personal liquidity during this crisis.

We also wish to express our support and thanks for the provisions that will provide additional resources to SBDCs and Women's Business Centers (WBCs) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). The coronavirus pandemic has already begun to strain SBDC, WBC, and MBDA resources due to the significant increase in demand for our services. The effects of this crisis will also not soon pass away. SBDCs, MBDA, and WBCs will need the capacity to extend our business advising and training through the months, and possibly years, of recovery to come. These funds will also enable us to build the ability to respond to this and any other emergency in an even more effective and timely fashion.

Again, America's SBDC and its membership supports and thanks you and your colleagues for this vital legislation in this time of stress and uncertainty. America's SBDCs appreciate the hard work you and your colleagues have done, and pledge to do our part to help small business through this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Edward Rowe III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

C. Edward Rowe III
President/CEO
America's SBDC