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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR
TRANSPORTATION &
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U.S. House of Representatives

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Dear Ms. Simon:

Thank you for contacting me about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public health and our economy. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this very important matter.

America leads the world in infections and my top priority remains fighting the spread of COVID-19 and keeping families safe while minimizing the economic impact on businesses and individuals. We must continue to practice good hygiene, social distance, and wear face masks and coverings when physical distancing is not feasible. Consistent planning is important for ensuring our health care system can manage the increased patient-load and provide sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) to safeguard our health care workers and first responders from infection. Additionally, efficient testing and contact tracing are critical for prompt isolation and ensuring vulnerable patients get the care they require. Unfortunately, the lag in testing and broken supply chain of critical medical protective gear hasn't just left us in the dark about how bad the situation is; it has also made the situation worse.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has not only greatly impacted public health and our health care infrastructure, but it has also yielded countless obstacles for nearly all businesses and their workers. To blunt the pandemic's impact on hardworking families and businesses, my colleagues and I here on Capitol Hill have passed several pieces of legislation that have expanded paid sick and family leave, enhanced unemployment, and established the Paycheck Protection Program to ensure businesses can stay open and pay to keep their employees on payroll.

Yet, even though the pandemic and its impact on our economy continues to persist, many of these relief measures have already expired or are set to imminently do so. Recently, I voted in favor of H.R. 6800, the Heroes Act. This bill would support frontline employees and steel against the economic toll that COVID-19 is taking on our economy and independently owned businesses by providing grants to struggling restaurants; supporting "mom and pop" shops keep their employees on payroll; further improving the PPP program; and offering loans and aid to the hardest hit of our small businesses. Unfortunately, while House Democrats passed the Heroes Act in May and a second version again in October, Senate Republicans have failed to act on behalf of the American people. Small businesses are in need of urgent relief and it is incumbent upon us here in Congress to support them from being forced to shuttering their doors during this unprecedented time.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your thoughts with me on this important matter. It is an honor to serve you and the Fourth Congressional district. My priority has always been fighting for and delivering on our shared priorities. Please continue to keep me informed of the issues most important to you. If you need further assistance, please call my office at (202) 225-8699.

Please [click here](#) if you would like to receive periodic updates from my office.
Sincerely,



Anthony Brown