



The Honorable Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin & the Illinois Congressional Delegation:

Chambers of commerce support small businesses and local communities. They provide connectivity, resources and assistance to the small business community. Unfortunately, many chambers have been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The cancellation of fundraising events, coupled with decreasing membership because of the pandemic, has placed many chambers in a perilous situation.

Unlike the businesses they support, chambers were inexplicably excluded from the CARES Act. There was no justifiable reason to withhold relief from organizations that provide crucial support for small businesses. Chambers of commerce and trade organizations must be included in the next stimulus package to help them make it through the pandemic. Otherwise, they may be compelled to lay off valued employees and face the prospect of closing their doors.

Small businesses will rely on the assistance and resources of chambers to recover from this pandemic. However, chambers must make it through the pandemic to provide this support. Please immediately sponsor legislation that will allow 501(c)(6) organizations to receive forgivable loans in the next stimulus package.

Chambers exist to help the small business community. With your support, chambers can continue to fulfill their mission during these difficult times. Please advocate zealously for chambers of commerce in Illinois. They are needed now more than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Richardson', written in a cursive style.

Elliot Richardson

President & Co-Founder
Small Business Advocacy Council
Elliot@sbacil.org
Office: (312) 548-8608

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Weitzel', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Weitzel, IOM, CAE

President
Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce
Executives (IACCE)

Dalia Aragon

Economic Development & Housing Coordinator
Albany Park Chamber of Commerce, North River
Commission

Laura Austin

Associate Director
Andersonville Chamber of Commerce

Suzanne Corr

BACC President/CEO
Barrington Chamber of Commerce

Nanette Gudenkauf

President/CEO
Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce

Amy Grafton

Executive Director
Belvidere Chamber of Commerce

Cindy Allston

President/CEO
Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce

Marian Brisard

Executive Director
Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Bureau

Andrea Biber

Executive Director
Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Rick Swan

Executive Director
East Peoria Chamber of Commerce

Christina Pfitzinger

Executive Director
Edgewater Chamber of Commerce

John R. Quigley

President and CEO
Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Amy Allen

Executive Director
Flora Chamber of Commerce

Andrea Jett Fletcher

Executive Director
French-American Chamber of Commerce - FACC-
Chicago

Paula Schmidt

President
Geneva Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau

Gene Wagendorf III

Associate Director
Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce

Chris Hembrough

President & CEO
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Scott Adams

Green Oaks, Libertyville, Mundelien, Vernon Hills
Chamber of Commerce

Ginny A. Glasner

President & CEO
Highland Park Chamber of Commerce

Eva J Field

President & CEO
Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce

Wallace Goode

Executive Director
Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce

Jen Howard

President
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce

Mark Mikenas

Executive Director
Kewanee Chamber of Commerce

Joanna Rolek

Executive Director
LAKE FOREST/LAKE BLUFF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dillon Goodson

Executive Director
Lakeview Chamber of Commerce

Jerome' (Jeremy) Holston
Director
LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois

Kim Schilf
President and CEO
Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce

Erin Lyons
Executive Director
Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce

Kim Close
Director of Programming
Little Village Chamber

Nilda Esparza
Interim Executive Director
Logan Chamber of Commerce

Yvonne Invergo
President & CEO
Lombard Chamber of Commerce

Sarah Marion
President and CEO
Manteno Chamber of Commerce

Melissa M. Fedora
Executive Director
Mokena Chamber of Commerce

Leigh Ann Brown
CEO & Executive Director
Morton Economic Development Council

Mark V. Matz
Executive Director
Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Kaylin Risvold
President & CEO
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce

Melissa Lagowski
Executive Director
NAWBO Chicago, National Association of Women
Business Owners

Samantha Brewer
Executive Director
Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce

Lindsay Eanet
Northcenter Chamber

Debbie Arell-Martinez
Executive Director
O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce

Felicitas Cortez
Executive Director
Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce

Linda Lane
Executive Director
Paris Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Tasha Marsaglia
Executive Director
Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Iwona Filipiak, President
Bogdan Pukszta, Executive Director
Polish American Chamber of Commerce

Jake Ford
Director, Government Affairs
Quad Cities Chamber

Bill Morton, President
Trudy Leong, Administrator
Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce

Gunn Johnsson
Executive Director
SACC Chicago

Carol Wagner
President
Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce

Howard S. Meyer, A.C. E.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Skokie Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Tonya Trice
Executive Director
South Shore Chamber of Commerce
South Shore Chamber Community Development
Corp.

Rosemarie Brown

Executive Director
The Chamber of Commerce Southwestern Madison
County

Martin Sorge

Executive Director
Uptown United & Uptown Chamber of Commerce

Tracy Lehmann

President
Wauconda Area Chamber of Commerce

Larissa Tyler

Executive Director
West Ridge Chamber of Commerce

Kara Hughes Salgado

Executive Director
West Town Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Terry Dason

Executive Director
Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce

cc: The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Bobby Rush
The Honorable Robin Kelly
The Honorable Dan Lipinski
The Honorable Jesús Garcia
The Honorable Mike Quigley
The Honorable Sean Casten
The Honorable Danny Davis
The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
The Honorable Brad Schneider
The Honorable Bill Foster
The Honorable Mike Bost
The Honorable Rodney Davis
The Honorable Lauren Underwood
The Honorable John Shimkus
The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
The Honorable Cheri Bustos
The Honorable Darin LaHood