

March 17, 2022

Dear Illinois Legislators:

Chambers of commerce provide crucial support and services to small businesses and local communities. They promote economic development and provide forums by which local businesses can collaborate. Chambers connect small businesses with potential customers, patrons, and clients. They also support charitable and civic endeavors.

The Covid-19 pandemic has persisted for nearly two years and each wave has dealt a devastating blow to many chambers of commerce. Fundraising challenges, a loss of members and other pandemic related difficulties have all contributed to their financial challenges. Chambers continue to struggle, and prompt financial support is needed to support ongoing operations.

We are asking that legislators co-sponsor and champion HB4993. This legislation will provide grants for chambers which have lost revenue because of the pandemic. Specifically, the bill provides chambers with grants that total two months of lost revenue from 2019 to 2020. These funds will be crucial to the recovery and resurgence of local chambers across Illinois.

Chambers of commerce have played a crucial role during the pandemic. They have consistently provided critical information to their members and have helped small businesses navigate the pandemic. Chambers remain dedicated to continuing their efforts to foster the recovery of small businesses and communities.

Please co-sponsor HB4993 and support the chambers of commerce which support our local businesses and communities.

Elliot Richardson
President | Co-Founder
Small Business Advocacy Council

Reid Mackin
Executive Director
Belmont-Central CC

David Oakes
Director of Business Services and District
Manager
Andersonville Chamber of Commerce

Lennie Shelton
Executive Director
**Benton-West City Area Chamber of
Commerce**

Nanette Gudenkauf
President/CEO
Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce

Cindy Allston
President/CEO
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Lynn Caccavallo
President/CEO
Cary-Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

Rosemarie Brown
Executive Director
**Chamber of Commerce Southwestern
Madison**

Doug Abolt
President & CEO
Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce

Terri Winfree
President
Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce

Marian Brisard
Executive Director
**Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce &
Tourism Bureau**

Siri Hibbler
President|CEO
Cook County Black Chamber of Commerce

Andrea Biver
Executive Director
**Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce &
Industry**

Ashlyn Kahl
Office Manager
East Peoria Chamber of Commerce

John Quigley
President and CEO
**Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and
Industry**

Garrett Karp
Executive Director
Evanston Chamber of Commerce

Siri Hibbler
President|CEO
Garfield Park Chamber

Paula Schmidt
President
**Geneva Chamber of Commerce and
Visitors Bureau**

Scott Adams
Executive Director
GLVM Chamber of Commerce

Felicia Slaton-Young (she/her/hers)
Executive Director
Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce

Dave Carlin
Executive Director
Greater Oak Brook Chamber

Jeanie Mayer
Executive Director
Hampshire Area Chamber of Commerce

Ginny A. Glasner
President & CEO
Highland Park Chamber of Commerce

Eva J Field
President & CEO
Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce

Lupe Tsironis
Executive Director
Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce

Ashley Villarreal
Executive Director
Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Cummings
Executive Director
LaGrange Business Association

Maureen Martino
Executive Director
Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce

Becca Girsch
Executive Director
Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce

Claire Slattery
Executive Director
Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce

Kim Schilf
Executive Director
Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce

Nilda Esparza
Executive Director
Logan Square Chamber of Commerce

Melissa Infusino
President & CEO
Lombard Chamber of Commerce

Lauren Merritt
Executive Director
Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce

Tom Tyler
Executive Director
Metro-East Regional Chamber of Commerce

Caroline Connors
Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association

Rodney Brown
Executive Director/CEO
New Covenant Community Dev. Corp.

Kim Biederman
Executive Director
Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Rodney Brown
Executive Committee member
North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council

Mario Farfan
Executive Director
Northwest Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Liz Holt
Executive Director
OPRF Chamber of Commerce

Claudia Thornton
Executive Director
Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce

Angie Hibben
President & CEO
Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Hettrick
Executive Director
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce

Jacqueline K. Mathews
Executive Director
Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce

Tasha Marsaglia
Executive Director
Plainfield Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce

Bogdan Pukszta
Executive Director
Polish American Chamber of Commerce

Arnie Zander
Executive Director
Pulaski Elston Business Association

Einar Forsman
Executive Director
Rockford Chamber of Commerce

Sandi Price
Executive Director
Rogers Park Business Alliance

Kris Noble
Executive Director
Sauk Valley Area Chamber

Arnie Zander
Executive Director
Six Corners Association

Howard Meyer
Executive Director
Skokie Chamber of Commerce

Tonya Trice
Executive Director
South Shore Chamber of Commerce

Laurrie Minor, PCED
Executive Director
**Sullivan Chamber & Economic
Development**

RoseMarie M. Trembl
Executive Director
Sycamore Chamber of Commerce

Sarah Wilson
Executive Director
**Uptown United & Uptown Chamber of
Commerce**

Chevie Kriete
Executive Director
Washington Chamber of Commerce

Susan Aldous
Executive Director
West Town Chamber of Commerce

Pamela Maass
Executive Director
**Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of
Commerce**