

Pushing for Needed Changes to the Paycheck Protection Program

At the 10-week mark of the coronavirus pandemic, when small businesses in all 50-states are in some state of reopening, it is obvious that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) needs some changes. There is a growing concern that the parameters to receive PPP loan forgiveness do not meet the needs of small businesses and their employees, especially in a phased-in reopening environment.

Specifically, the PPP's rules limiting loan forgiveness to expenditures during the eight weeks after origination and the requirement that no more than 25% be spent on non-payroll costs, fail to match the expenses small businesses are incurring during the phased reopening. On Monday, several restaurateurs met with the [President](#) and they asked for more time than the 8-weeks allowed under PPP. This morning, the Chamber released a letter signed by over [130 trade and business organizations](#) calling for changes to the PPP to help small businesses reopen.

And Congress is now acting. Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised that Chamber-supported [H.R. 6886, the Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act](#) introduced by Representatives Dean Phillips (D-MN) and Chris Roy (R-TX), will be considered on the House floor next week. The Senate is fast-tracking similar legislation.

The calls from businesses like [Cardew Hay Company](#) in Buckeye, Arizona and [Sonic Promos](#) in Gaithersburg, Maryland remind all of us that getting these programs right will help small business reopen and prosper.

—Tom Sullivan, Vice President, Small Business Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce