March 26, 2020

Dear Representative [LAST NAME]:

As an independent bookseller [bookstore owner] in [TOWN], I am writing to you to vote yes on the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which will provide crucial financial aid to small businesses like mine.

**Moreover, I strongly agree with Secretary Mnuchin, who said fiscal relief should be available to small businesses on the same day that they submit their application.**

At present, many small retailers like mine are on the precipice of shutting down. We cannot wait six to 10 weeks for grant money or forgivable loans. Small businesses are the drivers of the economy, and if small businesses close down, it will send a ripple effect through the economy that could last for years.

The CARES Act must be signed into law immediately so that there is no delay in providing critical fiscal relief to my store and my staff. At a time when the government is ordering businesses to shut their doors, congressional leadership must expedite legislation that could allow me to do my part and “stay home,” and protect our economy at the same time.

It is crucial that you protect Main Streets during this time of crisis. The Great Recession of 2008 provided us with a lesson as to the kind of ripple effect the closing of one business can have on the local economy.

[As *Time*reported in 2009](https://www.bookweb.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=64586&qid=6857043), “a single lost job becomes infectious, combining with others and spreading through family, neighborhood and community. Widespread cutbacks in spending by families mean lower demand for businesses and lower tax revenues for the government. This belt-tightening means fewer car sales and thus fewer jobs for car-part makers. It means less government spending on infrastructure and other public services, including economic development.... it can mean a permanent drop in earning power and standard of living — a reversal of the American Dream.” This is no less true today, and what happened during the Great Recession should be our cautionary tale.

It is of the utmost importance that financial relief includes fiscal grants for Main Street retailers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Store name]
[Address]