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OHIO, 3RD DISTRICT

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April 22, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza:

In the four weeks since the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, P.L. 116-136, was signed into law, we have all seen and heard numerous reports of delays, confusion, unresponsiveness, and inaccessibility. In fact, my office has been flooded with calls from individuals looking for assistance and answers but finding little in the way of guidance from your respective agencies.

This week, as Congress prepares to pass additional legislation to address the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, I call on your agencies to work expeditiously to ensure a more even, consumer-friendly rollout of the critical programs and funding streams entrusted to you by the taxpayers.

Following passage of the overwhelmingly bipartisan CARES Act, American workers, families, and small businesses were hopeful that the largest financial rescue package in our nation's history would help them weather the financial storm that has turned their lives upside down—through no fault of their own. Indeed, the law provides immediate direct “economic impact payments” to roughly 170 million Americans struggling to make ends meet and extends forgivable Small Business Administration (SBA)-backed loans to small businesses and entrepreneurs, including 1099 workers like those working in hair and nail salons, barbershops, and from gig to gig.

However, I cannot stand idle and let history repeat itself. I implore you to take the necessary remedial steps now to rectify these glaring shortcomings and work to devise a plan to more smoothly distribute aid to those who truly need it most.

I am requesting that the plan of action to better assist those truly small and minority-owned businesses include some type of oversight and data collection on who actually received the assistance.

American workers, families, and small businesses are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress (OH-03)