



September 10, 2020

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Good day. I write to you today as the CEO of San Antonio's largest business organization, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Our organization is comprised of 1,850 area businesses who together employ 500,000 people in San Antonio and the surrounding region. These businesses continue to bear the brunt of the pandemic's severe economic fallout.

We applaud the Senate for moving forward with a Senate GOP Targeted Relief Package. The legislation is a great step forward to providing financial assistance for small businesses and organizations adversely affected by COVID-19. We appreciate the inclusion of coronavirus liability relief as well as additional federal funding through an Education Stabilization Fund to support school districts and institutions of higher education. However, the legislation falls short of providing much needed financial relief to state and local governments who play a key role in helping businesses thrive.

State and local governments provide essential government services that businesses need to grow and operate. Public education, higher education, hospitals, highways, roads, police and fire protection are all funded by state and local governments. Any cuts to those essential services would jeopardize a successful economic recovery and hurt business confidence going forward.

The bill does not provide aid with the flexibility for state and local governments to use towards budget shortfalls caused by COVID-19. State and local governments across the country are facing a budget shortfall as result of the pandemic and decline in tax revenue. State and local governments are required to balance their budgets by law and without federal aid, they will be forced to cut essential government services they provide to citizens and businesses.

Therefore, we urge you to provide state and local governments the economic security they need to combat this crisis and provide the essential services businesses depend on.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 210-229-2170 or by email at [rperez@sachamber.org](mailto:rperez@sachamber.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your service to our great nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Perez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard Perez  
President & CEO