

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

5/14/2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write to bring your attention to challenges facing the live entertainment industry and to ask for targeted legislative action as Congress works on additional economic relief legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Live event venues were among the first to close as COVID-19 spread across the country, and they are likely to be among the last to reopen. Concerts and live events may not be possible until a vaccine is readily available to the public, which could be months away. Until that time, live event venues will remain shuttered, leaving employees without jobs and businesses without revenue. The continued closures will impact the hundreds of contractors, suppliers, and business partners that support the live entertainment industry in our states and districts.

Each year, thousands of independent venues host millions of events, staffed by hundreds of thousands of employees, and attended by hundreds of millions of concertgoers across all walks of life. These entertainment hubs are important economic multipliers for our local economies, generating millions in tax revenue and providing quality jobs. The business generated by our industry supports countless neighboring businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and retail. One Chicago impact report estimated that for every \$1 spent on a ticket, a total of \$12 in economic activity was generated.

Unfortunately, once venues are permitted to reopen, it will take months for the industry to return to usual schedules. Tour artists have an intricate and complicated process of planning, scheduling, and tour routing, making a quick restart near impossible. Despite being necessary to prevent the spread of COVID 19, new federal, state, and local capacity limitations and other restrictions will likely inhibit the live entertainment industry's ability to recover for years. We are concerned that even if these entertainment venues are able to withstand the shutdowns, they will not be economically viable operating at 25 or 50 percent occupancy.


We have taken swift action to support the economy, but the programs we have enacted provide little relief to independent venues and promoters. Short-term disruption assistance has provided a lifeline for millions of Americans, but businesses that face prolonged closure also need help. Without assistance targeted to their unique situation, venue workers, artists, and our local


communities face an unprecedented crisis. We support providing government funding, tax relief measures, and assistance to mitigate the continued financial impacts on mom and pop venues across the country.

These venues support the economies of communities across the country, are a crucial component of the music industry's ecosystem, and serve as incubators and launch pads for the most popular talent in the world. We can provide a vital lifeline for the industry that will help to sustain the iconic venues that are central to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of so many of our communities. This industry is not going to make it without our help.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you to provide necessary relief to live venue operators across the country.

Sincerely,


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


Roger Williams
Member of Congress

/s/
Chip Roy
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/
Will Hurd
Member of Congress

/s/
Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

/s/
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Cole
Member of Congress

/s/
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

/s/
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

/s/
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/
Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

/s/
Josh Harder
Member of Congress

/s/
Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/
Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

/s/
Ron Estes
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

/s/
Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

/s/
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

/s/
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

/s/
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

/s/
Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

/s/
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

/s/
Angie Craig
Member of Congress

/s/
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

/s/
David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

/s/
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

/s/
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

/s/
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

/s/
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

/s/
Ron Kind
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve King
Member of Congress

/s/
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

/s/
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

/s/
Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

/s/
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

/s/
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/
Debbie Dingell
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/s/
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

/s/
Mike Levin
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

/s/
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/
Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

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Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/
Steve Watkins
Member of Congress

/s/
David Price
Member of Congress

/s/
Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/
Susie Lee
Member of Congress

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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

/s/
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/
John Lewis
Member of Congress

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John B. Larson
Member of Congress

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Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/
Tim Ryan
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/s/
Julia Brownley
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Tim Burchett
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Greg Stanton
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Adam B. Schiff
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Markwayne Mullin
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David N. Cicilline
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Brenda L. Lawrence
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Harley Rouda
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Lloyd Doggett
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Robin L. Kelly
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Collin C. Peterson
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

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Mike Kelly
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Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
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Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

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Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

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Andy Kim
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/s/
G. K. Butterfield
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/s/
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

/s/
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress