



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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To: New York Congressional Delegation

Date: April 16, 2020

Re: Emergency Funds for Small Firms

I thank you for all your hard work over these past few weeks to provide much-needed relief for New York individuals and businesses during this period of unprecedented economic and personal crisis. As Congress considers additional relief measures, I urge you to include additional funds to the Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Grants, as well as to the Paycheck Protection Program.

Congress recognized the need for these programs to provide critical financial assistance to our nation's small businesses. The response has been overwhelming. As a consequence, both programs may be fully subscribed by the end of this week.

The New York State Bar Association, the largest volunteer bar association in the country, counts among its 70,000 + members many small and solo practitioners. These lawyers are under a stay-at-home order and many are struggling in the wake of this pandemic. They turned to the promised relief from the federal government, only to find confusion, delays, and ultimately a lack of access to emergency funds which were designed to keep people on payroll and the lights on.

Small and solo law firms are not alone in this struggle. Countless small businesses in every county in New York State are facing tremendous battles to stay afloat. I appreciate that Congress acted quickly to create these relief measures, and I urge the New York Congressional Delegation to take all immediate steps necessary to provide adequate funding to fulfill the promise to our nation's small businesses.