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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE AND
RECOVERY
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

September 14, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

I write to urge you to not only consider a continuing resolution before the end of September, but to also consider COVID-19 relief legislation that my constituents, and Americans across the entire country, so desperately need. As Members of Congress, it would be shameful to neglect our duty to provide federal aid, and an even bigger disgrace to subject our constituents to a government shutdown while they suffer through a pandemic. We must rise above the banter and get this done, because failure to do both is not an option.

Since the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law back in March, our constituents have been waiting for continued support from Congress—because while federal unemployment increases and small business aid have stopped, the brutal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic rage on. There are restaurants in my district who are hanging on by a thread, through no fault of their own. Historic venues all across this country are preparing to shutter for good. And tireless Americans who worked their entire lives are finding themselves laid off, abandoned by their government, and unsure of how they will put food on the table or pay their landlord. Over 6.3 million people have contracted the coronavirus in this country, with over 189,000 people dying from the virus. Unfortunately, as our case levels from this month indicate, we are far from conquering the spread of COVID-19 in the United

States. We need to consider strong relief legislation as soon as possible—any delay would cause further irreparable harm, and we cannot allow it.

The stakes are far too high to not vote on both COVID-19 relief legislation, and legislation to keep the government funded—we've learned that the true cost of a government shutdown is borne by the taxpayer, and we cannot add insult to injury by allowing funding to lapse.

According to a report by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, the multiple government shutdowns of the past six years have cost taxpayers nearly \$4 billion, in addition to nearly 57,000 lost years of productive time. Furthermore, we've seen our federal workers step up in this impossible time to serve their communities, and their outreach has proved invaluable in working to contain the virus. In the recent shutdown in Fiscal Year 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services furloughed 7,997 employees, the Department of Justice canceled approximately 60,000 immigration hearings, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission could no longer make decisions on recalls, potentially exposing consumers to dangerous products. We absolutely cannot afford another shutdown, or to needlessly risk the health and safety of American citizens.

Now is the time to prove to our constituents that we can do our jobs. The stakes are too high, and our constituents cannot wait any longer. I look forward to working with you on these important pieces of legislation, and stand in support of their immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Rose', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Max Rose
Member of Congress