



September 2, 2020

Chairman Luke Torian, House Appropriations Committee
Pocahontas Building
900 E. Main St.
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Tax Credit for PPE Purchased by Small Business and Other Organizations (HB5005-Item 4-14 #1h)

Dear Chairman Torian,

As a representative of the 30 million small businesses in America and the nearly 800,000 in Virginia, Small Business Majority writes today in support of HB5005-Item 4-14 #1h, which will create a tax credit for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) by small businesses, sole proprietors and other eligible organizations. We also appreciate that the bill specifies that this credit is intended for small women-owned and minority-owned businesses as defined by the Commonwealth, as these groups are often left behind by the tax code.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and inclusive economy. We engage our network of more than 70,000 small businesses and 1,000 business and community organizations to advocate for public policy solutions and deliver resources to entrepreneurs that promote equitable small business growth. A key component of our work involves outreach to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including access to capital, workforce issues, healthcare and more.

Many Virginia small business owners are an uncertain future due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding economic recession. Business owners want to re-open, but after losses in revenue, many do not have the financial resources they need to ensure the safety of their employees and customers. HB5005-Item 4-14 #1h will help Virginia small business owners to acquire the necessary PPE to reopen and kick start the recovery of our local economies.

Small businesses desperately need support. A [quarter of small business owners](#) report that they will not be able to survive the next three months without additional assistance. To re-open safely, small businesses need PPE, but the costs can come at a large price during a time that small businesses are struggling. And, with inaction on a new stimulus package in Congress, they are looking to their state leaders to help address these challenges.

There are not enough tax incentives for small businesses in the tax code as it is particularly for women and minority-owned businesses. Measures like HB5005-Item 4-14 #1h will help small businesses stay afloat during this difficult time and make critical investments that will allow them to pivot their businesses. This is why we strongly endorse this legislation.

Sincerely,

Awesta Sarkash, Government Affairs Manager
Small Business Majority