

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 353

Reps. Kuppa, Hertel, Hope, Cynthia Neeley, Guerra, Tyrone Carter, Elder, Aiyash, Haadsma, Greig, Sneller, Lasinski, Sowerby, Wittenberg, Rabhi and Peterson offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to work collaboratively with states on a national strategy to help
3 small businesses and local units of government.

4 Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a dramatic effect on
5 small businesses in Michigan and throughout the United States. In
6 order to mitigate the virus' spread, non-essential businesses have
7 needed to temporarily close or significantly reduce operations.
8 Businesses have also faced reduced traffic as consumers have
9 limited potential exposure to the virus. This has led to
10 unprecedented declines in revenue and the permanent closure of tens
11 of thousands of small businesses throughout the country; and

1 Whereas, Local governments have also been significantly
2 affected by the Pandemic. Falling revenues from property, casino,
3 and local income taxes have placed these governments under immense
4 fiscal stress that may be exacerbated by a decline in state revenue
5 sharing; and

6 Whereas, Michigan and states throughout the nation are
7 experiencing rising coronavirus cases that may place further stress
8 on small businesses and local governments. In Michigan, some
9 mitigation measures have been temporarily reinstated to control
10 the virus; and

11 Whereas, Establishing a coordinated national strategy to
12 support small businesses and local governments will alleviate some
13 of this burden and help the nation to recover more quickly when the
14 Pandemic has ended. Providing support to small businesses will help
15 protect jobs and American livelihoods in the immediate future,
16 while also ensuring that these businesses are able to avoid
17 permanent closure. Likewise, supporting local governments will allow
18 them to avoid unnecessarily harmful budget cuts immediately and
19 emerge in a stronger financial position after the crisis; and

20 Whereas, The aid provided by the federal Coronavirus Aid,
21 Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was critical in saving
22 lives and businesses but insufficient to weather the ongoing
23 crisis. The funding provided to small businesses was inadequate to
24 support the number of small businesses affected by the Pandemic.
25 Further, the act only provided direct aid to local governments with
26 a population of half-a-million or greater, meaning the vast
27 majority of Michigan's nearly 2,000 local units of government were
28 ineligible for direct payments. This funding is also expiring and
29 may only be used for costs incurred by the end of this year; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize
3 the Congress of the United States to work collaboratively with
4 states on a national strategy to help small businesses and local
5 units of government; and be it further

6 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
7 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
8 President of the United States Senate, and members of the Michigan
9 congressional delegation.