

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.130

Senator MacDonald offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to explore further avenues of relief for businesses affected by the
3 COVID-19 Pandemic.

4 Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has dramatically affected
5 Michigan and the United States. The first cases in Michigan were
6 reported on March 10, 2020, and since these initial reports more
7 than 56,000 cases have been confirmed and more than 5,000
8 Michiganders have lost their lives to the novel coronavirus.
9 Nationally, there have been more than 1.7 million cases and 100,000
10 deaths; and

11 Whereas, Mitigating the spread of the virus has required
12 extraordinary public health measures. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has
13 issued executive orders prohibiting large gatherings, closing all

1 primary and secondary schools, and requiring the temporary closure
2 of all nonessential businesses. At the federal level, the White
3 House Coronavirus Task Force's guidelines recommended the closure
4 of places where people gather, including businesses, where there is
5 evidence of community transmission. While some industries and
6 regions of the state have begun to partially reopen, it is unclear
7 how long mitigation measures will be necessary before normal
8 operations can resume; and

9 Whereas, These measures have greatly impacted the livelihoods
10 of business owners across the state and our nation. With the forced
11 closures, small business owners have been forced to lay off workers
12 and forgo income for months, while still needing to make payments
13 for utilities, mortgages and rent, and other expenses. According to
14 a survey by the Small Business Administration of Michigan, one in
15 seven, or about 14 percent, of small businesses are not confident
16 that they will survive the Pandemic. Nationally, a survey found
17 that 7.5 million small businesses are at risk of shutting down; and

18 Whereas, Federal and state governments have a responsibility
19 to assist small businesses since government mitigation measures,
20 while for the greater good, contributed significantly to the
21 current economic crisis. The economic uncertainty and devastation
22 caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the related mitigation policies
23 are not the fault of small business owners. It would be unjust to
24 fail to help them and to allow them to bear an unfair share of the
25 burden of addressing this crisis; and

26 Whereas, The failure of these businesses could have wide
27 ranging negative effects for Michigan and the United States. Since
28 the beginning of the crisis, more than 40 million Americans have
29 filed for unemployment, including more than 1.7 million in

1 Michigan. If small businesses are unable to reopen, many of these
2 claimants may not be able to return to work, magnifying the already
3 devastating economic impact of COVID-19; and

4 Whereas, The small business relief already enacted by Congress
5 is not sufficient to mitigate these effects. As part of the
6 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act,
7 Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide
8 loans to small businesses. Even though additional money was
9 subsequently appropriated to the program, the PPP has been unable
10 to prove relief to millions of small businesses that have been
11 affected by the crisis; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of
13 the United States to explore further avenues of relief for
14 businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic; and be it further

15 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
16 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
17 President of the United States Senate, and the members of the
18 Michigan congressional delegation.