



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
Maryland State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

On behalf of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, representing over 4,500 business members and federated partners, we thank you for your decisive actions in addressing the COVID-19 crisis impacting our state and country. We are requesting immediate additional assistance for our state's businesses to mitigate the impacts on our communities.

The Maryland business community understands that necessary measures must be implemented to protect our communities and to assist with the prevention of the further spread of COVID-19. Businesses are willing to do their part; however, the implications are severely impacting all industries. Businesses of all sizes are facing financial deficiencies due to current mandated closures and loss of customers, as well as critical operating pressures resulting from reduced staffing and a disrupted supply chain. With the continued execution of these essential actions, these impacts on business are growing exponentially. The long-term effects and economic fallout could be devastating and could include permanent business closures.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce strongly urges your continued thoughtful consideration of any additional decisions regarding business closures.

Furthermore, if you deem additional steps to be a necessity in Maryland's fight to combat this challenge, we would strongly encourage your adoption of the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's *Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response* dated March 19, 2020. Although we believe this list to be comprehensive in nature, we would request that **you allow for as broad of an interpretation as possible for support personnel to ensure that these critical operations can maintain service.** We believe that any order that does not list these industries as essential could be detrimental to Maryland's economy.

Your leadership on this issue has been an example for the rest of the nation to follow. The Maryland Chamber of Commerce stands with you in preventing the further spread of this virus, and we hope to work together to lead a successful recovery effort from its impact.

Regards,

Christine Ross
President & CEO
Maryland Chamber of Commerce

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