



COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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April 28, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

On behalf of the Committee for Economic Development of The Conference Board, the non-profit, non-partisan business led think tank whose Trustees include over 160 current and former CEOs, we commend the action to date to address the COVID-19 crisis and its rapidly expanding detrimental impact on the health and economic well-being of all Americans, and urge that you continue to work expeditiously on a bipartisan basis.

We agree with the broad thrust of the Administration's "Guidelines—Opening Up America Again" toward a gradual and phased resumption of economic activity. However, we believe several initiatives would improve the implementation and outcomes of reopening the economy as we ramp up our testing capacity. America is going back to work. It must be done safely. And it can be done safely even with today's limited testing capacity by pacing the reopening to the testing capacity.

Central to achieving that goal is the need for lawmakers at all levels of government to work in close collaboration with business leaders to ensure that reopening does not cause a resurgence of the pandemic, which would have debilitating effects on American lives and set the economic recovery back even further. CED's suggested approach would:

- 1) Increase leadership by the federal government, particularly in coordinating the healthcare infrastructure including testing equipment and assessments, contact tracing personnel, hospital capacity and funding and development of treatments and vaccines.
- 2) Increase testing metric requirements and clear and transparent reporting to include a percentage of the population that has been infected, and increase testing capabilities to include reliable serology (antibody) tests and sufficient capacity for point of care testing.

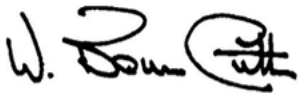
- 3) Strengthen guidelines for Governors on opening businesses with a targeted sector approach appropriate for each state and local region, under conditions that can provide safety with current limited testing capacity.
- 4) Strengthen and enhance guidelines for employers as they work to develop their plans on how to open their businesses and ensure the safety of their employees, and;
- 5) Support and strengthen our most vulnerable communities which are taking the brunt of this economic and health crisis.

As America gets back to work, while COVID-19 still threatens our health and well-being, the overriding principles for reopening the economy—which is much harder than turning the economy off—must be: the health and safety of American workers; protection of the most vulnerable citizens and frontline workers; the smart easing of regulatory requirements and “Manhattan Project” scale financial support of innovation in the pursuit of treatments and a vaccine. Adhering to these principles will ensure that we responsibly and safely return to an economy that provides high levels of employment, production and consumption.

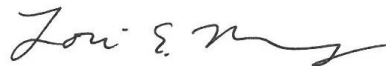
[Our full statement](#), which is also attached, explains these and other points that we believe add to the dialog over this key issue. As since our founding in 1942, CED offers its recommendations from business in a spirit of bipartisan cooperation to solve the nation’s crucial public policy problems.

We believe that these ideas will prove helpful, and we welcome any comments and questions, and would be pleased to engage directly to move the nation and its economy forward at this crucial time.

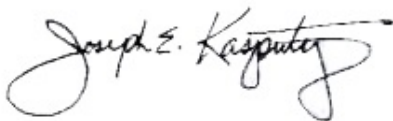
Respectfully,



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