



September 10, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and Members of the U.S. Senate:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I am writing to express our support for S. 178, the Delivering Immediate Relief to America's Families, Schools, and Small Businesses Act. S. 178 provides necessary and targeted financial assistance to our nation's small businesses as well as important liability protections to protect workers and employers during this pandemic. ABC urges you to vote yes on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 178, when it comes to the floor for a vote.

ABC strongly supports the important liability protections in Title II of the bill, the SAFE TO WORK Act, which would deliver targeted liability relief that would safeguard both small and large businesses as well as employees from unfair lawsuits so that they can continue to contribute to a safe and effective recovery from this pandemic. The liability protections in the bill also apply to hospitals, healthcare workers, schools, colleges and universities, religious, philanthropic and other nonprofit institutions, and local government agencies.

ABC also supports the small business-focused provisions in Title IV of S. 178, the Continuing the Paycheck Protection Program Act, which would provide small businesses that have experienced a 35% or greater reduction in gross receipts a second opportunity to receive PPP loans. This would provide an additional lifeline to the small businesses that continue to be negatively affected by the pandemic. The PPP program has been especially critical for the construction industry, the third largest recipient of covered loans [according to SBA data](#), and ABC strongly supports its reauthorization and reform.

Title IV of S. 178 would also simplify the forgiveness application process for current and future PPP borrowers that receive loans of less than \$150,000 by allowing those small businesses to attest to a good faith effort to comply with PPP loan requirements and obtain forgiveness. ABC also appreciates the expansion of the definition of PPP expenses Under Title IV, which would include certain operational expenditures, property damage costs, certain supplier costs, and worker protection expenditures, and would allow small business borrowers to select an eight-week covered period to utilize their PPP loan funds.

ABC appreciates the swift action by the Senate to address this ongoing health crisis and urges continued bipartisan support to pass this critical bill that will help our nation. Again, we urge you to vote yes on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 178, the Delivering Immediate Relief to America's Families, Schools, and Small Businesses Act when it comes to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs