



Message Points: **Urge Congress to Act on Coronavirus Economic Relief**

Use these points when communicating with the media about the need for immediate Congressional legislative action.

- Travel employers and workers have been by far **the hardest hit of any U.S. industry**. Huge numbers of travel businesses have not been able to access earlier rounds of relief passed by Congress.
- Prior to COVID-19, **travel and tourism supported employment for one in 10 Americans**.
- But **more than half of the 15.8 million pre-pandemic jobs** supported by travel were wiped out between the onset of coronavirus and May 1.
- Travel spending in the U.S. is projected to drop by **more than half a trillion dollars** this year alone. Clearly, this course is unsustainable.
- **The need for relief is urgent**. With each passing moment, odds increase that more businesses, large and small, will shut their doors forever and take their jobs with them.
- Workers and business owners in the travel sector are struggling to understand why **leaders in Washington have yet to advance meaningful legislative relief** that works for travel businesses to address the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the evidence of acute pain is so clear.
- At a bare minimum, Congress must pass a stand-alone measure that **expands and enhances the Paycheck Protection Program—the one program that has worked** and which still has over \$130 billion dollars left that can be utilized to help save these businesses.
- While a **broad package is urgently needed to extend relief to travel businesses**, it is irresponsible for Congress to leave for the election without **passing an extension** of important programs—such as PPP—that **still have dollars available** to help those who want to keep people employed and provide a lifeline to businesses.
- Doing so will help prevent a prolonged U.S. recession even once the pandemic has subsided.

As of September 29, 2020