

**STEVE COHEN**

9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE  
2104 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265  
FAX: (202) 225-5663

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167 NORTH MAIN STREET  
SUITE 369  
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131  
FAX: (901) 544-4329

[WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV)

*Congress of the United States*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Washington, DC 20515-4209*

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION  
IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

September 25, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn  
Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Majority Whip Clyburn,

Thank you for your leadership as you negotiate the next coronavirus relief package. As a proud cosponsor of H.R. 7806, the Save Our Stages (SOS) Act, H.R. 7197, the Real Economic Support That Acknowledges Unique Restaurant Assistance Needed To Survive (RESTAURANTS) Act, and H.R. 7481, the Reviving the Economy Sustainably Towards A Recovery in Twenty-Twenty (RESTART) Act, I respectfully request their inclusion in the next coronavirus relief package. I strongly believe these bills are critical in supporting our vulnerable and precious music, restaurant and hospitality industries. As we continue to provide relief to struggling Americans amid the coronavirus pandemic, it's imperative that we look out for the little guy and provide necessary support to keep small businesses afloat.

As the Representative of Memphis, the Home of the Blues and birthplace of Rock 'n Roll, I am deeply concerned about the vitality of our local, independent music venues. These establishments are vibrant pieces of the cultural fabric of our community and attract visitors from all around the world. The SOS Act would preserve these venues by providing grant support to meet payroll, pay for overhead costs and pay for essential personal protection equipment. Considering these venues were the first to close and will likely be the last to open, this support is critical in preserving these venues' future.

The restaurant industry has also been uniquely devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic with employment down by 3.1 million people since February. The RESTAURANTS Act would provide much-needed assistance to the restaurant industry by establishing a \$120 billion restaurant revitalization fund at the Department of Treasury. This fund would be available to independent restaurants through the end of 2020 and could be used for everything from payroll and benefits to food, utilities, and rent.

Finally, I believe it's critical that we provide adequate support for small to mid-sized retailers, hotels, gyms and other businesses that have been hardest hit during this pandemic. The RESTART Act would give business owners who received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans the flexibility they need to utilize the PPP funds effectively to get their businesses up and running again. The bill also creates a new loan program that would provide funding to cover six months of payroll, benefits, and fixed operating expenses for businesses that have taken a substantial hit to their gross receipts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These three pieces of legislation are all common-sense measures with broad support in the House of Representatives and Senate, and I urge they be included in any compromise that is reached. The future of some of our must beloved industries are in our hands, and it's time we acted accordingly.

During these uncertain times, I appreciate your leadership, and I am grateful to work alongside you in the House of Representatives. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Alex Schnelle at [alex.schnelle@mail.house.gov](mailto:alex.schnelle@mail.house.gov).

As always, I remain,

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen,  
Member of Congress