



THE VOICE of BUSINESS

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
U.S. Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
U.S. Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Warner and Kaine:

Thank you for your letter in response to the impact the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) could have on Virginia's business community. The Virginia Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) shares your concerns about the potential health threat posed by COVID-19, and we appreciate your recognition of the financial hardship that pandemics can have on employers and workers.

Since reports of the first American COVID-19 cases, we have been actively tracking federal and state guidance for how to most appropriately prevent and address the spread of this disease. The Virginia business community is playing an active role to support our public health officials and protect Virginia workers. Specifically, the Chamber has engaged our membership through a [communications campaign](#) to educate our businesses on how to best protect employees in the workplace and at home. We encourage all businesses to recognize the nuances of this situation and provide flexible options for their employees at this time, so they can appropriately care for themselves and family members.

Further, we applaud Congress' response to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States by approving H.R. 6074. This supplemental funding will allow our state public health agencies to address infection control at the local level in order to prevent additional cases, as well as test and treat individuals who are symptomatic. Although Virginia has not yet had a confirmed COVID-19 case, this funding will not only help prevent the spread of this disease but also identify potential cases to limit their impact. We also appreciate Congress' foresight in addressing the financial health of the most vulnerable in the business community by authorizing \$1 billion in loan subsidies for small businesses and other organizations.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to partnering with you to develop a strong response to this disease.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry E. DuVal".

Barry DuVal  
President and CEO