

Dear Co-Chairs Holvey,

As a business owner, I am writing today to share the impacts the current COVID-19 health crisis is having on my business, my employees and my family.

These are hard times for all of us. I encourage you to support our business community as we deal with the astonishing economic disruption that has accompanied this health crisis.

To date, we have laid off (5) of our team members and reduced pay for (4) others. We have action steps ready to reduce hours for 2 departments at the end of the month. In April and for sure May, we know that layoffs will continue as well.

Currently, my worse fear is a 'shelter in place' mandate that keeps us from servicing clients at all. Those that want us to work with them. The reason I fear that is because I cannot afford to pay my team while we are shut down and that will impact them and their families greatly. I understand the health of my team and our clients (our community) is the most critical factor, but livelihoods are important too. I'm worried about the long-term problems this will cause for them.

I'm concerned that landlords for our locations that won't work with us on rent. I don't expect them to take the full hit, they have a business to run also. But a temporary reduction of rent or 1 month abatement would be help and shouldn't crush their business. Any government funding that gets passed to help those businesses should trickle down (and landlords should be supported).

Our leads have all but shut off. We will literally have no income coming likely in May '20. And although the forecast is bleak, we are fighting. We're being creative to still service clients virtually (those that have the funds to keep making purchases). We are not only looking to receive government help, we are also doing what entrepreneurs always do...we're problem solving. Please support us to get through this! I understand I am looking right in the face of losing my business of 16 years and a total of 37 employed people no longer having work at a place they have enjoyed and thrived.

Sincerely,

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