

April 28, 2020

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Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House 1236 Longworth House Office Building Washington D.C. 20515 Senator Charles Schumer Senate Minority Leader 322 Hart Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510

Congressman Kevin McCarthy House Minority Leader 2468 Rayburn House Office Building Washington D.C. 20515

Congressional Leaders,

We are a group of entrepreneurs and investors writing on behalf of the greater Medical Alley community to urge you to pass the New Business Preservation Act. Passing this legislation will drive economic activity, innovation, and job growth in critical industries in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn.

Medical Alley is The Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care[™], where healthcare leaders call home. Our region's innovative spirit has earned us the distinction of being one of the Smithsonian's six "Places of Invention," as the new businesses in this region are at the forefront of healthcare transformation.

Medical Alley has a burgeoning early stage community that has proven to be effective at raising funds, starting businesses, and creating jobs. Since 2015, health technology and care companies located here have received over \$3.5 billion dollars in private investment from 19 other states and 11 other countries, resulting in more than 20 initial public offerings, creating thousands of new jobs and spurring economic growth throughout the country as they succeed and expand.

While the current economic climate is troubling for all enterprises, new businesses are uniquely threatened by the current economic and health crisis. Previous recessions have resulted in a severe funding gap in the financing of new technologies and innovation with commitments by limited partners to venture funds falling by 41% from 2000 to 2001; and by 58% from 2008 to 2009, severely curtailing potential financing. Many of these new businesses have not had the time to build the cash reserves or establish credit histories that would enable emergency borrowing under normal circumstances.

The New Business Preservation Act would increase private investment capacity and startup formation in states and regions like ours that are currently underrepresented by investment firms in relation to their underlying innovation capacity. Furthermore, the act gives special consideration to operating businesses founded by veterans, women, and people of color, who face additional barriers in accessing investment capital. Improving access to venture capital in states and populations currently underserved will strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems across the United States, enable the creation of high-potential startups, drive economic growth and job creation, and enhance the nation's economic competitiveness.

The new businesses in Medical Alley have an important role to play in addressing both COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis. The New Business Preservation Act would help create opportunities for emerging health technology and care companies that are implementing innovative solutions to combat this pandemic. For these reasons, this coalition of entrepreneurs and investors are in strong support of the New Business Preservation Act.

We thank you for your consideration and support.

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