

debating my bill, the TRUTH Act, which simply injects transparency and accountability into the very largest expenditure of taxpayer money in American history.

That is it. There is no hidden agenda, just a straightforward requirement for the Small Business Administration to publish information about how Federal relief dollars are flowing and where they are going. And that truth should be important to every American: business owners and patrons, bankers and borrowers, Republicans and Democrats.

We cannot accept a situation in which bigger businesses with access to other sources of liquidity are pushing to the front of the line at the expense of those with the greatest need, particularly minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses that are struggling the very most during the pandemic.

I won't accept it.

I am on a mission to restore Americans' faith in their government. But trust is earned by action, not by words. So I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the TRUTH Act, in allowing the American people to see where their money is going and in ensuring that businesses that need relief the most are getting it.

They say that sunlight is the best disinfectant, and we could surely use more of it here.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) on her leadership, and I regret that we cannot support this particular piece of legislation; however, I am certain that we will continue to work together in a bipartisan manner to address the needs of America's small businesses.

I would note, just in response, briefly, to the gentleman's mention that this is called the TRUTH Act, just because something is called the TRUTH Act doesn't necessarily mean that it is the truth, just like something called the Affordable Care Act doesn't necessarily mean it is going to make healthcare more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when this body spent trillions of dollars to address the economic downturn brought about by COVID-19, we included a special inspector general to provide oversight over the expenditure of these dollars. Unfortunately, President Trump said the special IG could not issue reports to Congress without Presidential supervision and subsequently removed the acting IG at the Pentagon and chairman of the panel.

So with the erosion of accountability, transparency is needed more than ever. Congress needs to ensure that there is no waste, fraud, or abuse of taxpayers' dollars.

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This data collection and transparency bill is a positive step in that direction, providing much-needed transparency and accountability. Knowledge is power and, with this bill, the public will finally have the knowledge on how these programs have been implemented, where the money has gone, who has gotten it and who hasn't.

Not only will this empower the people, it will empower Congress as we continue working to optimize the CARES Act programs.

The bill also clarifies the program accounts for the Paycheck Protection Program and the 7(a) Loan Program are wholly distinct, ensuring that the SBA's flagship lending program will not shut down when the Paycheck Protection Program appropriation lapses.

As the small business economy begins to recover in the coming weeks and months, small businesses need to be able to access affordable capital to rehire workers, restock their shelves, and resume operations. This language ensures the 7(a) program will be an option for them in the next phase of recovery.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6782, the Small Business Transparency and Reporting for the Underbanked and Taxpayers at Home Act or TRUTH Act, which directs the Small Business Administration (SBA) to explain and justify all disbursements of coronavirus relief funds, ensuring transparency and accountability from this critical agency.

Together, the CARES Act and the Payroll Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act together allocated more than \$2 trillion to address the devastating coronavirus pandemic, the most expensive relief package ever authorized by Congress, and the largest outlay of taxpayer funds in all human history.

The stakes simply are too high to allow irresponsible stewardship, and those charged with disbursing coronavirus relief funds must be held to the highest standards and held to account for misfeasance or malfeasance.

Mr. Speaker, it is wholly unacceptable that the SBA has not to date provided full transparency over its administration of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL).

PPP and EIDL were created by Congress to provide relief for small businesses affected by the pandemic, and more than \$700 billion has been allocated in service of those goals.

However, in too many cases the programs did not function as Congress intended, and large organizations such as the Los Angeles Lakers received funding while many of our smallest and most vulnerable businesses were unable to secure assistance.

In light of this mismanagement, it is imperative that SBA be subject to an exhaustive audit of its handling of PPP and EIDL funding.

The agency has refused to do so voluntarily, requiring Congress to mandate compliance from the agency that exists to serve small business, the backbone of the American economy.

The TRUTH Act would require the SBA to make the following information publicly avail-

able in an online, searchable, sortable, and downloadable format within 30 days of passage:

1. The identity of every recipient of a grant or loan that was funded by the CARES Act or the Payroll Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act;

2. An explanation of the SBA's decision-making process;

3. The number of employees at the entity in question;

4. The date when the grant or loan was disbursed;

5. The identification number of the bank or lender that administered the grant or loan; and

6. The amount of assistance provided to small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, women, and veterans.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us in ways we could have scarcely imagined; it has claimed lives and destroyed livelihoods all across our nation.

We are in this together and we will come out stronger and better.

And we do that by caring for each other and rendering equal, justice and fairness, whether it is in the area of coronavirus testing, distribution of PPE, or economic assistance.

Our small businesses need help and they need the truth, which is why I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to pass H.R. 6782, the TRUTH Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6782, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2020

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7010) to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to modify certain provisions related to the forgiveness of loans under the paycheck protection program, to allow recipients of loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program to defer payroll taxes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7010

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. MATURITY FOR LOANS WITH REMAINING BALANCE AFTER APPLICATION OF FORGIVENESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a)(36)(K)(ii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36))

is amended by inserting “minimum maturity of 5 years and a” before “maximum maturity”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.**—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to any loan made pursuant to section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)) on or after such date. Nothing in this Act, the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136), or the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law 116-139) shall be construed to prohibit lenders and borrowers from mutually agreeing to modify the maturity terms of a covered loan described in subparagraph (K) of such section to conform with requirements of this section.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN FORGIVENESS.

(a) **EXTENSION OF COVERED PERIOD.**—Section 7(a)(36)(A)(iii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)(A)(iii)) is amended by striking “June 30, 2020” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

(b) **FORGIVENESS.**—Section 1106 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) the term ‘covered period’ means, subject to subsection (1), the period beginning on the date of the origination of a covered loan and ending the earlier of—

“(A) the date that is 24 weeks after such date of origination; or

“(B) December 31, 2020;”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “June 30, 2020” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2020”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(7) **EXEMPTION BASED ON EMPLOYEE AVAILABILITY.**—During the period beginning on February 15, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2020, the amount of loan forgiveness under this section shall be determined without regard to a proportional reduction in the number of full-time equivalent employees if an eligible recipient, in good faith—

“(A) is able to document—

“(i) an inability to rehire individuals who were employees of the eligible recipient on February 15, 2020; and

“(ii) an inability to hire similarly qualified employees for unfilled positions on or before December 31, 2020; or

“(B) is able to document an inability to return to the same level of business activity as such business was operating at before February 15, 2020, due to compliance with requirements established or guidance issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending December 31, 2020, related to the maintenance of standards for sanitation, social distancing, or any other worker or customer safety requirement related to COVID-19.

“(8) **LIMITATION ON FORGIVENESS.**—To receive loan forgiveness under this section, an eligible recipient shall use at least 60 percent of the covered loan amount for payroll costs, and may use up to 40 percent of such amount for any payment of interest on any covered mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a covered mortgage obligation), any payment on any covered rent obligation, or any covered utility payment.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) **APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.**—An eligible recipient that received

a covered loan before the date of enactment of this subsection may elect for the covered period applicable to such covered loan to end on the date that is 8 weeks after the date of the origination of such covered loan.”.

(c) **EXTENSION OF DEFERRAL PERIOD.**—Section 7(a)(36)(M) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)(M)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “for a period of not less than 6 months, including payment of principal, interest, and fees, and not more than 1 year.” and inserting the following: “, including payment of principal, interest, and fees, until the date on which the amount of forgiveness determined under section 1106 of the CARES Act is remitted to the lender.”;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking “for a period of not less than 6 months, including payment of principal, interest, and fees, and not more than 1 year.” and inserting the following: “, including payment of principal, interest, and fees, until the date on which the amount of forgiveness determined under section 1106 of the CARES Act is remitted to the lender.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—If an eligible recipient fails to apply for forgiveness of a covered loan within 10 months after the last day of the covered period defined in section 1106(a) of the CARES Act, such eligible recipient shall make payments of principal, interest, and fees on such covered loan beginning on the day that is not earlier than the date that is 10 months after the last day of such covered period.”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective as if included in the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) and shall apply to any loan made pursuant to section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)) or section 1109 of the CARES Act.

SEC. 4. DELAY OF PAYMENT OF EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAXES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2302(a) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective as if included in the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) and shall apply to any loan made pursuant to section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)) or section 1109 of the CARES Act.

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) **DESIGNATION IN SENATE.**—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the bipartisan bill before us today, H.R. 7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020.

We all knew the rollout of the Paycheck Protection Program was going to be rocky, given the size of the program and the speed with which it was stood up.

We are thankful for the staff at SBA for their hard work assisting small businesses during this dire time. This is, undoubtedly, the most enormous undertaking the agency has ever performed. They have done so under difficult circumstances and remarkably quickly.

With that said, my colleagues and I have been hearing from Main Street small businesses that they need changes to make the program work for them.

I think we can all agree the economic crisis brought on by COVID-19 has proven more severe and drawn out than many anticipated. In some cases, State and local governments have extended shutdowns and stay-at-home orders. Many localities are only now allowing small businesses to reopen, very gradually, in phases.

In other instances, small business owners have reported concerns that the economy will not fully recover until there is an affordable, widely accessible COVID-19 vaccine.

Regardless, the extended nature of the economic downturn has made it necessary to enact certain legislative reforms to the program.

First, we need to give borrowers more than 8 weeks to use the funds in order to qualify for loan forgiveness. Borrowers who took out PPP loans early in the program are about to reach the end of their 8-week period governing forgiveness. However, millions of small businesses across the Nation are still facing forced closures.

Those that are reopening are required to do so in an extremely limited manner, with only outdoor dining or curbside-only pickup at retail stores. Those restrictions mean small businesses continue to have a tough road ahead, and they need flexibility in how they use this emergency capital. This provision will give them that.

The bill triples the current 8-week period in which businesses must use funds to be eligible for forgiveness to 24 weeks. That will help ensure businesses have more room to breathe, even in places where reopening of the economy happens more slowly.

Second, we must extend the program through the end of the year. The unpredictable spread of the virus, shortage of widespread testing, and lack of a vaccine mean that we do not know exactly when the small business sector will fully reopen and, when it does, how the “new normal” will look.

The bill addresses a challenge that was created when the first set of guidelines were issued. We have heard you

loud and clear. Today's legislation strikes a balance between protecting workers by guaranteeing loans are used for payroll, with the need to recognize that many independent restaurants face difficulty paying rent and utilities.

The new 60/40 ratio makes certain a business can remain open, weather the crisis, continue employing workers, and keep serving their local communities. Congress must revamp this program to make it more accessible for small employers to weather the uncertainty ahead.

We simply do not know if there will be another wave of infections or additional lockdowns. This bill provides certainty to employers afraid to use their loan proceeds or reluctant to apply to the program by providing much-needed flexibility.

I applaud my colleagues, Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. ROY, for working together in a bipartisan manner to craft commonsense solutions for America's small businesses. I thank Ranking Member CHABOT for his assistance in crafting this bipartisan measure.

I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Unlike the previous bill, I am happy to say that I agree with the chairwoman, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020, as amended.

I would, again, like to thank Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ for conducting this process in such a bipartisan manner. It is more important than ever to maintain our strong bilateral negotiations as we continue to combat the spread of COVID-19 and its devastating, absolutely devastating, effect on our economy, especially our small businesses in that economy.

Over the past 3 months, I have been in contact with literally thousands of small businesses, not only in my hometown of Cincinnati, but across the country. I have joined dozens of conference calls with my congressional colleagues and with their constituents and mine all the way from the State of Washington to the State of Florida, and just about everywhere in between.

There has been broad consensus during those interactions that the PPP program has served as a lifeline for small businesses and their employees, many of whom have been shut down through no fault of their own.

By and large, it would be hard to argue against the fact that the PPP program has, for the most part, been successful. Over 4 million small businesses have received a PPP loan thus far, allowing them to hang on as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across our Nation.

Of course, there have been some shortcomings, some unintended consequences. That will happen when you do 6 months of legislative work in 6

days. That is why we are here today, to fix some of the unintended consequences.

For example, when we crafted the original CARES Act back in March, the covered period was defined as 8 weeks. The true emergency period has evolved over time. This bill begins to address that.

To fix the miscalculation in how long this pandemic would last, this bill extends the 8-week original covered period to 24 weeks and creates an option allowing businesses that want to stay within the original 8-week window to do so. This promotes greater flexibility for small businesses to decide when it is best to start spending their PPP loan.

It is important to remember that this change isn't as simple as moving a few dates around. There are a lot of unintended consequences that we need to account for because more than 4 million loans have already gone through the program in the amount of half a trillion dollars.

First, the original CARES Act allows principal, interest, and fees to be deferred for between 6 and 12 months. The administration adjusted this deferment period to just 6 months through guidance.

This deferment time period needed to be shifted to ensure a business knows its loan forgiveness amount before its deferment period concludes. This bill accomplishes that by extending the deferment window to end once the SBA makes the forgiveness payment to the lender on the borrower's behalf.

Second, the bill amends the 75/25 rule which was inserted into the PPP by the administration through guidance to require 75 percent of the loan to be used on payroll costs and 25 percent to be used on mortgage interest, rent, and utilities. So that is what the previous rule called for, 75/25.

This bill replaced that with a 60/40 split to, again, give small businesses greater flexibility as to how to best utilize their PPP funds.

Third, the bill extends the 2-year maturity of the loan to a 5-year maturity for new loans to help small businesses struggling to make their payments in a weakened economy. Loans already processed remain at the 2-year maturity rate so that there is no retroactivity in this provision.

The bill makes clear that small businesses and lenders are free to negotiate modifications in the maturity terms if they both agree. Again, both have to agree, both the borrower or the small business and the lender.

Fourth, the bill allows businesses that receive PPP loan forgiveness to also receive their employer payroll tax deferment.

And that was a big issue. Many of the small businesses were concerned that they were losing one of the advantages that was in the original PPP program in the CARES Act. So this is back in. They will be able to take that business deduction from their taxes.

Fifth, the bill also codifies the rehire flexibility provision. So as long as a good-faith offer to return to work is provided to a recently laid off worker, the business will satisfy the head count requirements.

This safe harbor provision attempts to address the challenges many small businesses have had getting some employees to return to work with the \$600 Federal unemployment check per week on top of the State unemployment checks which they are also receiving.

Finally, the bill establishes a new safe harbor to account for businesses that are required by civil authority to open only at 50 percent capacity. This ensures that businesses that have no choice but to run at half capacity are not left behind by their counterparts who have the ability to operate fully. So it is a fairness issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed bipartisan bill that provides real solutions to American small businesses facing this very difficult situation.

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Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the chairwoman for working on this on a bipartisan basis.

This flexibility allows America's small businesses to go a long way to addressing many of the concerns that we heard time and time again from small businesses all across the country. They need to have the flexibility to spend the money most efficiently so that the businesses can actually stay afloat, make it through this pandemic, and, most importantly, be able to keep as many of their employees on the payroll so that they are able to support their families as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation on both sides of the aisle, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS).

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative VELAZQUEZ; Ranking Member CHABOT; my colleague, Mr. ROY from Texas, who has spent a lot of time in the political foxhole with me from the very beginning of this initiative; and all who have helped get the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act to the floor.

But I want to spend my time today letting my constituents speak for themselves. For more than 43 years, Minnesotans have celebrated birthdays and Little League wins over burgers and cheese curds at Lions Tap, a family-owned restaurant in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, until COVID-19 changed everything. My team spoke with Bert, owner of Lions Tap, and when we asked for feedback about his experience with the Payroll Protection Program, he said this: "We definitely need the PPP. The problem is that because our business is a restaurant, we are not able to open it up fully where we could hire our entire staff back under the conditions of the loan. It is imperative that

we are allowed forgiveness for expenses beyond the original 8-week period. We also need to loosen up the restrictions of nonpayroll expenses beyond the 25 percent. The complexities of balancing staying open or closing will be determined by what the government will be able to change on the PPP in this bill."

Bert is not alone. On a Zoom call last month, a barber who rents a chair in a Brooklyn Park barber salon told me exactly the same thing. I also talked with Mike, who owns a few hotels in Minnesota and is being forced to make lose-lose decisions about how to pay his employees and his mortgage while their rooms sit empty.

Mike said this: "The government stepped in with the Paycheck Protection Program, but it was a one-size-fits-all approach that didn't really help industries like hospitality. We could pay our employees but not our mortgages. The Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act will do for small businesses what the PPP could not."

John from Maple Grove, who owns a handful of beloved wood-fired pizza joints in Minnesota, is also feeling the heat from a lengthening crisis. He told me: "We are very appreciative of the PPP loan we received but would have no way to qualify for any material forgiveness given the impossibility of rehiring our entire workforce while our stores are closed. If the loan is not forgiven, we do not foresee our business returning to any meaningful positive cash flow until a vaccine is developed or the virus impact weakens and would likely not have funds to repay any loan principal in that time."

Justin, who has a small gym in Chanhassen, and Ryan, who owns Frenchies nail salon, are reporting the exact same problems. The outpouring of feedback has been as clear as it has been enormous.

Mr. Speaker, today is not about us. It is not about which side secures the biggest win or who gets the credit. It is about delivering the relief that small business owners across Minnesota and this Nation are asking for. It is about doing our job.

At its core, representation begins with listening, and these stories paint a very clear picture. Our small business owners, the institutions of our Main Streets and the glue of our communities, are asking us to take action to solve problems and to engage in some good old-fashioned teamwork.

I am grateful to my colleague, Mr. CHIP ROY from Texas, for joining me in that very spirit as the coauthor of this bill and to the growing coalition of support that we built around the Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act. This bill will help people in the ways that they need, and we have not a moment to lose.

Mr. Speaker, if you don't want to take my word for it, just listen to the millions of our country's shopkeepers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and small business owners all around the country. Or listen to our 11 million res-

taurant employees. Or just take it from Bert, the owner of Lions Tap, who said that the heartbeat of America is small business, and we need your help to survive.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) for working together in a bipartisan manner on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman and the ranking member for their leadership. I really want to give a strong statement of support and thanks to my colleague, DEAN PHILLIPS, for the way in which our offices have worked together and in which he and I have worked together on this. I have nothing but positive things to say about him, and I look forward to working on other measures to get, frankly, this body back to the work of the American people and to make Congress work again, to use a phrase that might be interesting. But we need to make Congress work again for the American people.

This is a simple bill. It is a seven-page bill. We need more of that, more single-subject bills that we can wrap our hands around and move through the Chamber in ways that will impact American people's lives without things being decided by a handful of people in back rooms that cost trillions of dollars and have 2,000 and 3,000 pages.

That is a statement, frankly, on both sides of the aisle. We need to find a way to work together, to have simple approaches to do the work of the American people.

This piece of legislation, in particular, is important to me because I represent about 2,300 restaurants and about 53,000 employees who work there in central Texas. It is the most in Texas. It has to be pretty high up nationwide. Austin, Texas, and San Antonio, Texas, both have a great number of live music venues, as they are famously known, and my wife and I have availed ourselves of them over our lives.

In fact, my courtship of my wife began in a lot of these places. Our first date was at Stubb's Bar-B-Q in Austin, Texas, a great institution for a Willie Nelson concert. We were at Threadgill's for our rehearsal dinner in South Austin, Texas, with live music.

I represent the Broken Spoke. I represent Luckenbach, Texas, if you remember the famous song. I represent a number of great restaurants in San Antonio. The Cortez family has a bunch of restaurants in San Antonio. Many of you, if you have been on the River Walk or have been in downtown San Antonio, would have experienced these places. They are a part of the culture of our lives, our fabric of what we do every day when we visit with our families and our communities.

We need to save these great institutions and not just restaurants. I am

talking about the barbershops, the hair salons, the live music venues, and the hotels that are struggling.

I just talked to a hotel operator an hour ago, just before coming down here to the floor, who is struggling and said: Look, I can't make it 8 weeks. I can't stay alive. I don't have enough heads on the pillows. We are working toward reopening.

These are real businesses with real employees and real lives tied up into this who are struggling.

The thing is, the PPP program has been a great success in getting \$650 billion out the door in a matter of weeks to help almost 4 million businesses, as has been noted on the floor, and that is awesome. That is fantastic. We should be proud of that. But as we work to get America open again, we have to be mindful of the fact that times are continuing to move on. These businesses are struggling, and they can't meet some of these restrictions and deadlines.

I will note a little moment of partisanship perhaps, in that I believe the unemployment insurance provision that was adopted is actually the root of the problem because you can't pay people more not to work than to work and then expect businesses to go back and rehire people to meet the requirements we put in the bill to meet and hold people in employment in the businesses. We need to address that. I hope that as a body we will not extend that when it expires in July. This is something I think is fundamentally important.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, one thing I want to point out here is that the ranking member and the chair have gone through the provisions in the bill. This is an important vote because we have to do this to help small businesses, but it is an important vote because I think it gets back to the heart of simple legislating and working together to accomplish things.

Let's provide the flexibility for businesses. Let's make sure that we let America open. But let's work together to solve the problems of the American people together, like Mr. PHILLIPS and I did. I am proud to cosponsor this with him.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Senate will take this up and move it expeditiously so that we can help businesses this week. There is no reason to delay that.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the Chair how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio has 10 minutes remaining.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS).

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, while the Paycheck Protection Program has provided a lifeline to small businesses, fundamental changes must be made to meet the ongoing needs of our Main Street economy.

I am thankful to have heard from hundreds of local business leaders in my district who have helped identify critical shortcomings in the PPP.

RoseAnn in Laconia tells us her restaurant's sales are down 90 percent, and she needs more time than 8 weeks to ramp up safely.

David from Portsmouth says his overhead costs are much higher than the payroll at his new business, and he needs more flexibility in how he can spend down the loan.

Hillary from Goffstown won't begin to make up for lost sales in her wedding business until next year. A longer term will give her a more stable financial footing.

There are millions of stories like these across the country.

I want to thank my colleagues for coming together on a bipartisan basis to understand the need that is out there and helping to meet it with this comprehensive bill that is going to provide a lifeline to our local businesses. The fixes in this Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act will allow our small businesses and their dedicated employees to continue to survive. Let's pass this bipartisan bill today for our workers, for our small businesses, and certainly for our future.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to particularly thank Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. ROY for working together on this important legislation.

When the President signed the Paycheck Protection Program nearly 2 months ago, it provided a real lifeline to our small businesses, without a doubt. We have had some pretty rough seas, a typhoon. But at the end of the day, after 8 weeks, Mr. Speaker, if you were a small business and you allocated 75 percent of the money that you received as that loan for employees' salaries, healthcare, et cetera, that loan would become a grant; and the response was overwhelming. A \$250 billion program was exhausted after 10 days.

After we came back and did another job, we doubled down. We gave it another \$310 billion on top of that. Unbelievable.

As much as all of us wanted this nightmare to end by Easter, we are now past Memorial Day, and those small businesses are still not open. Many of them are still shuttered, and they can't possibly meet that 75 percent standard that their lender, their community bank, or their credit union offered them to be able to convert that loan to a grant.

So, without the changes in this bipartisan bill, that program instead will be an anchor that will take them down

to the very bottom. We can't let that happen, no way.

The bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus endorsed this flexibility bill. It is one that we need to get done. I hope that the Senate can take what we do today and pass it before the end of the week. We need to provide that relief to our small businesses and the millions of employees that it impacts.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bills before the House.

In Colorado, our small businesses are struggling under these unprecedented economic circumstances. From the mom-and-pop taverns in Gilpin County and Winter Park; the restaurants in Loveland, Fort Collins, and Boulder; Main Street businesses in Nederland and Breckenridge; and the many Colorado businesses that rely on outdoor recreation and ski season, in particular, they never could have planned for this pandemic. We cannot expect them to weather this crisis alone.

The Payroll Protection Program has provided critical funds to keep many of these businesses afloat and workers employed. But as we have heard from both sides of the aisle today, many fixes are needed, and that is what we are here today to do.

We must ensure that loan forgiveness periods are extended so that small businesses are not on the hook for this money while their doors remain shut. We must extend the program past June 30 as so many of our businesses face increased uncertainty and as our country faces uncertainty about what the future holds in the coming months. We must expand access and transparency and prioritize our veteran-owned and economically disadvantaged businesses.

At the end of the day, we must continue to support our local small businesses because they are the lifeblood of our communities, for the sake of our families, our local economies, and our future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her strong leadership over the course of this pandemic and my freshman colleague, Representative PHILLIPS, for his leadership in bringing this bill forward. I am proud to support it. Let's get this done for small businesses in Colorado and across America.

□ 1030

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for his hard work; and I thank the chairwoman, as well, for working together in a bipartisan manner.

But most importantly, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my friend, for working together, for identifying the problems with the Paycheck

Protection Program, in helping to perfect this program that is an incredible lifeline to small businesses and, importantly, Mr. Speaker, to the employees.

Millions and millions of businesses, billions of dollars in loans in a program that didn't even exist. Within 1 week, they stood this program up, and within 2 weeks, Mr. Speaker, handed out more money than the SBA had done over the previous 14 years. It is absolutely remarkable what Treasury and SBA have done with this program.

And, as I said, the work that Mr. ROY and Mr. PHILLIPS have done to come together on a bipartisan basis to help to fix, to provide flexibility to businesses, to give them more time, to give them more flexibility on the use of funds, to ensure that these businesses aren't just open for 8 weeks but are truly sustainable businesses that can continue providing employment to millions and millions of Americans for years to come.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to pivot. The other legislation, the TRUTH Act, Mr. Speaker, looking at the comparison of numbers, here we are giving out billions of dollars and millions of loans, looking at the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, the EIDL loan program. This program is a complete disaster itself. The program is not getting money out the door. Whoever is running this program needs to be replaced.

Look at the statistics. They brought in an outside contractor to do the advances. The advances are taking off, but the loans, themselves, are not. We are not offering operating expenses and other needed loans to these small businesses.

This bill doesn't fix a single problem that is out there that is delaying, that is preventing this program from actually providing operating expense assistance to these small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a complete whiff. I urge that we pull back the TRUTH Act. Rescind it. Let's sit back down again and work together on a bipartisan basis, as we have done on this bill, on the PPP Flex bill, and provide true solutions to where the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program can help these small businesses, can truly provide a hand up.

Mr. Speaker, I urge rejection of that bill.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her excellent leadership. I thank Mr. ROY for his great bipartisan work and my dear friend, colleague, and fellow problem solver, DEAN PHILLIPS, for his remarkable leadership on this important piece of legislation. He did it the way he believes we all should govern, and that is working across the aisle. I am grateful for what he did on the Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act, which was supported by the Problem Solvers Caucus, 50 strong—25 Democrats and 25 Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard over and over again from businesses in my community in northern New Jersey that they are so grateful for the PPP Loan Forgiveness Program and all of the jobs and businesses it helps protect. But they need more flexibility with the formula and timeframe. They need more time with the loan and more flexibility on how to spend it, from salaries to rent.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this bipartisan legislation does exactly that: helps the 131,000 small businesses in New Jersey that have been helped by the PPP Loan Forgiveness Program.

And I am equally grateful for the bipartisan TRUTH Act, which demands more transparency and accountability for every single dollar that is loaned out from the Small Business Administration to our businesses. I am glad that that legislation will pass here later today and that we will know where all the loans have gone.

Mr. Speaker, New Jersey's economy, including all of our small businesses, want to make sure their businesses can stay open at the end of this pandemic. They want to keep their workers. They want to keep giving back to our communities. They want to grow their businesses and give back to our great State. But they need our help. This bill does that, and I am hoping the Senate acts quickly to take it up.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), a very important member of the Committee on Small Business.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the H.R. 7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act.

America's economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic depends on getting individuals comfortable with safely going back to workplaces, shops, and restaurants. H.R. 7010 represents a continued commitment to providing economic assistance to America's small businesses while our economy works towards this goal.

Throughout east Tennessee, the Paycheck Protection Program is ensuring employers can pay their workers and cover operating expenses. H.R. 7010 will allow greater flexibility for this relief by extending the PPP loan forgiveness period from 8 to 24 weeks, eliminating duplicative program requirements, and providing small businesses with additional time to pay back loans as they get back on their feet.

Members of the Committee on Small Business have a strong reputation of reaching across the aisle to work together, and I applaud the efforts of Mr. ROY and Mr. PHILLIPS to craft clean legislation that meets the needs of small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill that delivers results for America's small businesses during this difficult time. It is great to see Chair-

woman VELÁZQUEZ and the ranking member, and I thank them for their leadership.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her leadership with the ranking member, Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. ROY.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support because 100,000 people are dead. Small businesses are living in the midst of those communities of devastation, but they are trying to keep their doors open so they can help their fellow citizens.

I am grateful that we will allow an extended period of time, 24 weeks, for allowing for forgiveness. I am very grateful we have extended the date, for extending the program to December 31, and, of course, the payment, the loan period to 5 years.

I know the mom-and-pop barbershops and cosmetology shops and nail shops and restaurants; they are crying out to survive. Some of their very workers have died. They are taking care of families. And so to ensure the full access to payroll tax deferral for business tax, that takes PPP loans.

In addition, I support the TRUTH Act because the money that we give must be used right, and transparency on who gets the loans is important.

Mr. Speaker, this further relief for small businesses is well placed because they are the anchor of the economy.

I say to Houston small businesses: We are coming to help you. We will be speaking to you this week.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and we should move this forward as quickly as possible. They are the anchor of the economy of this Nation.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio very much.

Mr. Speaker, the Paycheck Protection Program, as we have been hearing, has provided critical support to small businesses across the country during this crisis.

The intent of the PPP was to prevent layoffs, maintain certainty for workers, and help businesses weather the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to President Trump's Treasury Department and other leaders in this body, whom I commend, the program's results were in line with the program's intent.

Thanks, as well, to the SBA and many community banks. Over 4.5 million small businesses have been approved for loans through the PPP, and over \$600 billion in loans have been processed.

The PPP has administered over 155,000 loans, totaling \$25 billion in Pennsylvania alone. Nationwide, nearly 65 percent of these loans have been under \$50,000—remarkable to see results of a bill in line with its intent.

However, we all do know—and we have been hearing from our constitu-

ents—that many businesses have not been able to reopen or access the loans amidst many various State government-mandated shutdowns, so additional time and flexibility to use the PPP funds will help them meet payroll and remain in operation as we safely and responsibly reopen our economy.

Today's Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act will enact effective reforms which were created with input from small businesses. Again, I strongly commend the bill's sponsors for engaging in this way.

Mr. Speaker, families are the heart of our communities. Small businesses are the backbones of our economy. Our families and our small businesses, with our support, will make it through this crisis and drive the next great American comeback.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a "yes" vote on this very important bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for her cooperation and Mr. ROY and Mr. PHILLIPS, as well, for working together in a bipartisan manner on this important legislation.

COVID-19, the coronavirus, has had a tremendous impact, an adverse impact on our Nation, particularly on our Nation's economy, particularly on America's small businesses. Many of them, unfortunately, have had to shut down during this time.

When we originally passed the CARES Act, which included the Paycheck Protection Program—or now it has become so popular, now it is PPP. It is known by that by millions of small businesses all across the country.

We didn't know exactly how long the pandemic would last. We still don't know, for that matter. So 8 weeks, for example, was the period of time that determined the payouts and whether the loan would be forgiven or not, whether in fact it would be a grant, whether these small businesses would have to pay it back.

As it turned out, 8 weeks, alone, isn't a sufficient period of time for many small businesses. This legislation extends that to 24 weeks, at the option of the borrower. So this will allow many small businesses all across the country to see what benefits them the most so they can survive, so they can keep their employees employed so they can support their families. So that is an important item that is in this legislation.

In addition, changing the 75/25 rule to 60/40, again, is going to give these businesses the flexibility that they need.

How long do small businesses have to pay it back? Well, those who have already taken out the loans, 2 years. For new loans taken out from here on—and there is over \$100 billion left in the

fund, so there will be many small businesses that still get loans—the period will be 24 weeks. Now, by the time the Senate gets ahold of this, it is always possible that that may be compromised, but at this point, it is 24 weeks in this particular piece of legislation.

But I think one of the important things to remember is that the borrower and the lender can get together and mutually agree, if they want to agree, if they don't necessarily fall into the two categories that I just mentioned. So there is some flexibility for them to negotiate there as well. And there are other items, as we have already discussed.

But the important thing is this will give America's small businesses the flexibility to ensure that they at least have a chance to survive. And I know in my district in Cincinnati, and districts all over the country, their very survival is at issue here.

The PPP program—and it is a lot of money, as was mentioned: \$350 billion and another \$310 billion, so around \$660 billion in this program going out all over the country to these small businesses that are the backbone of the American economy. About half the people who work in America work for one of these small businesses. So this will help them to survive.

Thank goodness the House of Representatives was able to work together in a bipartisan manner to come to this point today where this legislation will likely pass in a few minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the chairwoman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I continuously hear from small businesses across the country about the uncertainty they are facing and when they will be able to fully reopen. In the face of that uncertainty, small businesses need flexibility with these loans.

This bill takes an important step in providing that flexibility and making the Paycheck Protection Program work better for the millions of small businesses across the country that are trying to weather this storm. And since we do not know how long this storm will last, we must ensure small businesses are able to take advantage of the program through the end of the calendar year and to use the loan over the course of 24 weeks. This program is now a stronger onramp to full employment for small employers to weather this unprecedented economic and public health crisis.

I commend the Committee on Small Business staff on both sides of the aisle for their dedication and hard work over these last few months. I thank them for their commitment to our Nation's small employers and their workers.

And I thank the ranking member, because we have always, throughout the history of the committee, worked in a

bipartisan manner. I always say, when we deal with small business issues, there is no Democratic or Republican approach. Those are American issues, particularly as they relate to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, in that vein, I also thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) for the great work that they did and for the bipartisan spirit in which they brought this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a vote in support of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to provide a critical source of aid to small businesses and nonprofits during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Paycheck Protection Program was established as an eight-week program, it was clear from the start that the economic impact of the pandemic would last far longer. I am proud that the House addressed this issue by expanding the covered period to 24 weeks in the Heroes Act earlier this month, and I am glad this bill also includes a 24-week extension. The extended timeline will give borrowers the flexibility to spread out the loan proceeds over the full course of the crisis, and in a manner that is best for their small business or non-profit.

The legislation also takes action to change the harmful "75/25" percent rule that the Small Business Administration established to limit the use of Paycheck Protection Program loan proceeds for nonpayroll expenses to 25 percent. While increasing the current limitation on the use of loan proceeds for nonpayroll expenses from 25 percent to 40 percent will allow many small businesses to apply for the program, I am disappointed that this legislation falls short of the Heroes Act and fails to eliminate the rule. Congress intended for the Paycheck Protection Program to be a critical resource for all small businesses impacted by the pandemic. We must make sure that the program will be there and workable for micro-businesses in high rent areas like New York City. Microbusinesses—such as "mom and pop" shops and corner stores—are the lifeblood of our communities. I will continue working to ensure that the small business assistance programs created in the CARES Act are accessible and viable for the most vulnerable small businesses.

I am also disappointed that this legislation was amended to remove language to retroactively establish a five-year minimum maturity on Paycheck Protection Program loans for amounts not forgiven. While the CARES Act allowed a maximum maturity of up to ten years from when the borrower applied for the loan, the Small Business Administration limited the minimum maturity of the loans to two years just hours before financial institutions began accepting Paycheck Protection Program loans. To address this issue, the Heroes Act established a minimum maturity on PPP loans of five years to enable borrowers to amortize loans over a longer period of time, decreasing their monthly payments on any portion that is not forgiven. While this legislation also establishes a five-year minimum maturity on Paycheck Protection Program loans, it fails to make the change retroactive for the millions that have already received their loans. I will

continue to call for the minimum maturity on Paycheck Protection Program loans to be extended for all Paycheck Protection Program borrowers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7010, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1045

SMALL BUSINESS TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING FOR THE UNDERBANKED AND TAXPAYERS AT HOME ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings will resume on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6782) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit a report on recipients of assistance under the paycheck protection program and the economic injury disaster loan program, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 269, nays 147, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 113]

YEAS—269

Adams	Castro (TX)	Demings
Aguilar	Chu, Judy	DeSaulnier
Allred	Cicilline	Deutch
Axne	Cisneros	Diaz-Balart
Bacon	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Barragán	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Bass	Clay	Doyle, Michael F.
Beatty	Cleaver	Engel
Bera	Clyburn	Escobar
Beyer	Cohen	Eshoo
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Español
Blumenauer	Cooper	Evans
Blunt Rochester	Correa	Finkenauer
Bonamici	Costa	Fitzpatrick
Boyle, Brendan F.	Courtney	Fletcher
Brindisi	Cox (CA)	Fortenberry
Brooks (AL)	Craig	Foster
Brown (MD)	Crenshaw	Frankel
Brownley (CA)	Crist	Fudge
Burchett	Crow	Gabbard
Bustos	Cuellar	Gaetz
Butterfield	Cunningham	Gallagher
Calvert	Davids (KS)	Gallego
Carbajal	Davis (CA)	Garamendi
Cárdenas	Davis, Danny K.	García (IL)
Carson (IN)	Dean	García (TX)
Cartwright	DeFazio	Golden
Case	DeGette	Gomez
Casten (IL)	DeLauro	Gonzalez (TX)
Castor (FL)	DelBene	Gottheimer
	Delgado	