

February 15, 2021

Senator Melissa Melendez
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 74 (Borgeas and Caballero): Keep California Working Act
SUPPORT

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce, we write to express our support for SB 74, the Keep California Working Act, which would invest \$2.6 billion in grants to help small businesses and non-profits that have sustained financial losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on every aspect of our lives. Many small businesses are struggling to survive and the demand for services provided by nonprofits has increased while their sources of funding have decreased.

Small businesses play a major role in California's three trillion-dollar economy, employing 35.8% of California's workforce. A recent report indicated that 35% of small business would not survive past January of 2021 without more funding and as of November, small business revenue was down 33%. In the Inland Empire, a study by the University of California Riverside showed that almost 50% of small businesses reported a large negative effect from the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the recent increases in COVID-19 cases and new stay at home orders, revenue will likely continue to decrease.

At a time when small businesses throughout the state are being devastated by the overwhelming impacts of COVID-19, the Legislature should prioritize the health and safety of our communities, while also supporting a responsible and sustainable way to recover our economy. The Keep California Working Act will relieve some of the financial burden that small businesses and nonprofits have been facing and help save these important parts of our communities.

For these reasons above and others, we urge your support of SB 74.

Respectfully,



Joshua R. Bonner
President and CEO
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce