



Office of the President

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April 17, 2020

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin,

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin System and its Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) affiliated with our universities across the state, I write with enormous gratitude for the support from the federal government for funding provided through the CARES Act. It has provided much-needed regulatory and financial assistance to our students and to our universities. Over the past few weeks through our SBDC units, we also have had the ability to assist in delivering Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) support to small- and medium-sized businesses across the Badger state. This has proven to be a key driver in our effort to extend a vital economic lifeline to business owners who rely on expertise from our business development professionals.

We now understand that funding for the EIDL and PPP is near exhaustion due to extreme demand in Wisconsin and across the United States. Further, we are aware that by law, the Small Business Administration (SBA) will not be able to issue new loan approvals once the programs experience a lapse in appropriations. **We respectfully request that Congress appropriate additional funds for the EIDL and PPP to allow our UW System SBDC Wisconsin network to resume processing loan applications and to do more to protect small-business payments.**

Individually and collectively, we are all facing enormous pressures and challenges as a result of this pandemic. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our universities and the SBDCs are far-reaching and, in fact, touch every aspect of our daily efforts. Our Wisconsin SBDCs are fielding hundreds of inquiries each day. Since mid-March, they have hosted 112 remote training events, consulted with 2,062 small-business clients, and had 3,282 attendees participate in webinars. Our dedicated statewide SBDC professionals are instrumental in assisting the national SBA process a total of more than 14 years of loan requests in 14 days across the United States.

The PPP is saving thousands of jobs in Wisconsin and helping America's small businesses survive and endure through this challenging time. In Wisconsin through April 13, 2020, a total of 31,700 Paycheck Protection Program loans have been approved with an aggregate value of \$7.3 billion and an average loan size of approximately \$230,280 per business. Notably, this performance puts our Wisconsin SBDCs in the top 10 in the U.S. and well above what our population might indicate. Further, the EIDL program is also providing much-needed relief to businesses in the Badger state.

The high demand we have seen to-date underscores the desire for hardworking Americans to have access to relief as soon as possible. We do want every eligible business in Wisconsin to participate and receive the resources they need.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there are additional ways in which the University of Wisconsin System and its SBDCs can further assist in delivering on the important premise of the Wisconsin Idea; that is, to facilitate university resources and expertise to positively impact and energize the state in ways that can benefit all residents. We appreciate your partnership in our collective effort to help Wisconsin's students and businesses achieve their dreams and support the nation's economic recovery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ray Cross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ray" and last name "Cross" clearly distinguishable.

Ray Cross
President, UW System