



U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I am writing to express our support for the Johnson Amendment to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201). **ABC strongly urges your support of this amendment and will consider this a “KEY VOTE” for our scorecard on the 116th Congress.**

ABC believes that any emergency legislation approved by Congress should prioritize combatting the spread of coronavirus and providing healthcare to those impacted while focusing on the immediate threat COVID-19 poses to the personal safety and wellbeing of U.S. workers.

While the House-passed bill contains critical provisions including expanded unemployment insurance and increased access to testing, we remain concerned the leave mandates in H.R. 6201, which require businesses with 500 **and fewer** employees to provide more than 10 weeks of paid leave, **presume liquidity and a tolerance for debt that simply don’t exist in the construction industry.**

ABC fears these mandates will accelerate small and medium business closures, causing many Americans to lose employer-provided health benefits while straining the administrative and financial resources of state unemployment agencies. Although tax credits are included and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has promised to advance businesses money, credits won’t produce sufficient liquidity in time and we are concerned that the government does not have the infrastructure and businesses do not have the administrative resources to access these advances in the time needed to deter business closures.

Sen. Johnson’s amendment would replace this paid leave mandate with unemployment insurance capped at \$1,000 per week. ABC believes this is a more effective solution to immediately assist those employees and families who are adversely affected by the coronavirus.

ABC urges you to vote YES on this critical amendment and will consider this a “KEY VOTE” for our scorecard on the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

Kristen Swearingen
Vice President of Legislative & Political Affairs