

HOW TO REACH OUT TO YOUR SENATORS

STEP #1:

FIND THEM!

Go to [senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) to find your Senators, and ways to connect with them

STEP #2:

EMAIL THEM!

Use this template:

Dear Senator (INSERT NAME),

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. My name is (INSERT YOUR NAME). I own a restaurant in (INSERT COMMUNITY) and have employed (INSERT NUMBER) of your constituents for the last (INSERT NUMBER) years. Due to coronavirus, my restaurant (INSERT A COMMENT ABOUT HOW YOUR OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPACTED, HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU'VE HAD TO LAY OFF, OR A DECREASE IN SALES).

On April 7, the Relief for Restaurants and Other Hard Hit Small Businesses Act of 2022 passed in the House. This bipartisan bill would support hard-hit independent restaurants like mine by refilling the Revitalization Fund. Nearly 100,000 restaurants and bars around the country have closed during the pandemic, and I'm fighting hard not to have my business appear on that list. Tens of thousands of restaurants like mine are hanging on by a thread, taking out loans and selling personal assets just to keep afloat.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) in 2021 helped keep 101,000 independent restaurants and bars open. But nearly 200,000 businesses did not receive funding and now four out of five of these restaurants are at risk of closing forever. There is one solution to all these problems: prioritizing urgent relief for restaurants and voting to replenish the RRF.

This lifeline would help independent restaurants deal with the long-term structural challenges facing the industry because of COVID-19 and secure the employment of 11 million workers across 500,000 small businesses, as well as the five million more jobs up and down our supply chain.

Might someone from your office be able to take a 15 minute call to discuss this urgent matter?

Thank you again for your continued good work,
(YOUR SIGNATURE)

STEP #3:

GET FAMILIAR WITH THE RESTAURANTS REVITALIZATION FUND

- Head [here](#) to pick up a handy guide specific to the economic impact the RRF will have on your state.
- Restaurants are at risk without the RRF
 - 80% of businesses that did not receive RRF reported they are in danger of permanent closure
 - 42% of businesses that did not receive RRF grants are in danger of filing for or have filed for bankruptcy
 - 28% of businesses that did not receive RRF grants have received or are anticipating receiving an eviction notice.
 - 41% of restaurant and bar owners that did not receive RRF reported taking out new personal loans to support their businesses since February of 2020.
- RRF will help restaurant owners handle the rising costs of doing business. Over the past year, the prices of beef and veal (28.9%), grains (43.6%), shortening and cooking oil (34.4%), and fish and shellfish (30%) have surged.
- Restaurant and bar employment is down over 653,000 from its pre-pandemic levels, stopping a decade of rapid job growth. Employment for restaurants and bars increased over 33% in the last decade:the third fastest growth of any industry. Restaurants and bars account for one in five jobs lost during the pandemic.
- An average of \$0.90 from every dollar a restaurant receives goes back into the economy, so revitalizing restaurants also revitalizes farmers, fisherman, bakers, ranchers, winemakers, linen providers, parking attendants, cleaning services, and so many more critical small businesses
- Grant money can be spent on rent/mortgage payments, payroll and benefits, utilities, maintenance (including COVID-related updates), supplies, food & beverage expenses, debt obligations (including past-due supplier bills), and other applicable operating expenses.

WRITE A SCRIPT!

Prepare what you want to say, including your restaurant name, how long you've been in business, how many people you employ, the challenges your business has faced during COVID, and how the RRF would help.

STEP #5:

BE READY FOR QUESTIONS:

- What if someone already received PPP or other SBA loans? This bill prevents double dipping, so anything paid for with PPP or other loans would be ineligible to for use of Restaurant Revitalization funds.

- What if a restaurant permanently closes? Applicants for RRF grants who are pending or have not yet been disbursed must submit a statement to the SBA indicating the applicant is still operating or intends to re-open within 6 months. Applicants remaining funds are returned to the Treasury.

- Why are restaurants special when so many industries are seeking relief? The restaurant industry is cumulatively the second-largest employer in the country, with independent restaurants serving as the backbone of every community. 1 in 4 unemployed Americans that lost their job during the pandemic are restaurant workers. Independent restaurants do not have shareholders or corporate backstops to help cushion losses and, with already low profit margins, there isn't money sitting in the bank to keep them afloat. Even during closures, fixed cost continue to accrue. With lack of consumer confidence, a drastic reduction in revenue from losses of private and public events, restaurants have been uniquely and devastatingly impacted by this pandemic. The disastrous effects of permanent restaurant closures will be felt for years by every industry and community, especially the farmers, ranchers, winemakers, fisherman, and more who rely on them.

- Didn't the RRF give big business millions of dollars? The program provided a grant for lost revenue during the beginning of the pandemic up to \$5M for a single location and up to \$10 million if an applicant operated more than one location or business. 94.8% of RRF grants awarded were under \$1M. 0.16% of grants awarded were over \$5M The average grant size was \$283,000

FOLLOW UP!

Follow up with thank you notes and tweets, and get your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to do the same.

STEP #6: