

# 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 June 18, Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR 3) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA 1) introduced the RESTAURANTS Act (S. 4012/H.R. 7197), and on October 1st it passed in the House. This bipartisan bill would support hard-hit independent restaurants like mine, through a new \$120 billion Revitalization Fund. 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.

We need swift action in order to prevent mass closures and layoffs that are impending.

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 ACT

- The RESTAURANTS ACT would create a \$120B fund, issued from the Treasury, to provide up-front grants to restaurants, bars, caterers, food trucks, and other food & beverage businesses, off-setting 2020 revenue losses
- Grant amounts are based off of the difference in revenues or estimated revenues during a calendar quarter in 2020 as compared to revenues of the same calendar quarter in 2019
- 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
- A priority 14-day window at the start of the program will allow minority-, female-, and veteran-owned businesses, and entities with under \$1.5m in annual revenue a first shot at accessing funds, and \$60m will be set aside for creation of a resource center to help underrepresented communities learn about and navigate the application process

### AND WHY WE NEED IT

- 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
- A recent report found that this \$120B investment would generate over \$270B in economic activity, and reduce unemployment by up to 2.4%, saving states \$30.7B in unemployment benefits, all while generating significant tax revenue.
- Up to 85% of the 500,000 independent restaurants across the country are at risk of permanently closing without government assistance, put their 11 million employees and 5 million more employees up and down the supply chain at risk.

Read the full House bill text [here](#), and the full Senate bill text [here](#), check [here](#) to see who in the Senate is already a co-sponsor.

Then head [here](#) to pick up a handy guide specific to your state.

## STEP #4:

### 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 RESTAURANTS Act would help.

## STEP #5:

### BE READY FOR QUESTIONS:

- **Would more PPP funding help?** PPP requires restaurants to take on debt obligations that most can't afford. PPP is largely dependent on payroll at a time when restaurants at reduced capacity are also at limited staff. The RESTAURANTS Act allows money to spent on payroll and benefits, but also gives more up-front capital for other operating expenses and supplier bills.
- **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 RESTAURANTS Act funds.
- **What if a restaurant makes more than they projected?** Any amount of a grant based on estimated revenues that is above the actual revenues converts to a 10-year loan with an interest rate of 1 percent, beginning on January 1, 2021.
- **What if a restaurant permanently closes?** All 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, tourism, and business travel, and restrictions on capacity that will all likely last well into 2021, restaurants are 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.

## STEP #6:

### FOLLOW UP!

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