



[www.njbia.org/recovery](http://www.njbia.org/recovery)

January 26, 2021

Dear Governor Murphy and Members of the New Jersey Legislature,

As the leaders of major business associations, the New Jersey Business Coalition would like to bring to your attention several important legislative priorities that could provide the relief New Jersey businesses desperately need to drive our economic recovery. With the state budget season beginning, we believe it is imperative there is greater legislative focus on getting immediate support to our state's ailing business community.

2020 was a historically devastating year for small businesses in New Jersey. As of Dec. 31, 2020, the number of small businesses open decreased by 31.4% and small business revenue decreased by 35.8% relative to January 2020. While these statistics cannot fully capture the pain felt by those who have lost their businesses and livelihoods, this data underscores the necessity of a concentrated legislative effort to provide financial relief to businesses so they can reopen, stay open, and drive economic growth. Businesses simply cannot wait.

While not an exhaustive list, in enacting this legislation, we will make it easier for businesses to reopen safely and rehire workers, which is greatly needed given our November unemployment rate of 10.2%, the highest in the nation. Without a concerted effort to improve opportunity, our workforce will continue to suffer and rely on unemployment insurance benefits, something 42.4% of New Jersey's pre-pandemic civilian labor force has done since the start of the pandemic.

In addition to these COVID-19 relief measures listed below, the stark realities of the pandemic's economic impact also make it necessary to focus on reforming our state's structural challenges and refraining from enacting any further tax increases or mandates. Our Coalition is ready to support government reforms that will make the use of taxpayer dollars more effective and efficient.

**COVID-19 Relief Bills Supported by New Jersey Business Coalition:**

1. S-3234 (Singleton/Bucco)/A-5149 (Greenwald) – Forgiven PPP loans are not taxable and can be expensed
  - passed SBA
2. S-3305 (Smith/Oroho) – income tax credit for nonresidential improvements to reduce spread of COVID-19
  - passed SBA
3. S-2348 (Sweeney/Kean/Bucco)/A-3960 (Benson) – Allows tax credit based off federal CARES tax credit for very small businesses retaining workers during COVID-19
  - passed Senate
4. A-4183 (Murphy/Lopez/Dancer) – Allows charitable deduction during pandemic emergency
5. A-4195 (Dunn)/S-2493 (Pennacchio) – Allows tax credit for commercial rent forgiveness
6. A-4634 (Schaer/Johnson/McKnight)/S-2982 (Addiego/Bucco) – Allows tax credit for big business to help small businesses equal to 1% of subcontract

7. A-4910 (Burzichelli/Johnson/Danielsen)/S-3093 (Gopal/Sweeney) – Establishes county-based reopening plans
  - passed AAP & SCM
8. Majority Leader Greenwald’s restaurant/small business bill package (A-5133/S-3374, A-5135/S-3316, A-5136S-3365, A-5137/S-3317, A-5139/S-3337, AJR-174/AJR-199/SJR-104)
  - passed ACE
9. S-2634 (Gopal)/A-4440 (Houghtaling/Greenwald/Mazzeo) & S-2629 (Diegnan/Bucco)/A-4377 (Freiman/Lopez/Spearman) – COVID-19 liability protection for employers
10. A-4918 (Greenwald)/S-3266 (Diegnan) – Allows corporations to hold virtual shareholder meetings
11. A-5238 (Speight) – Addresses long-term health impacts of COVID, which are critical to understand given new workers’ compensation mandates

**Potential Gaps in Current Legislation that the New Jersey Business Coalition Would Like Addressed:**

1. Additional funding for EDA grants, loans and loan guarantees to supplement the \$50 million for Main Street in the new tax incentive law
2. Funding or tax credits for uniquely hard-hit but somewhat unaddressed industries such as childcare
3. Statutory creation of Economic Recovery Coordinator in the executive branch to coordinate New Jersey’s efforts to get our economy back on track after the pandemic and adapted to post-pandemic changes
4. Exemption for small businesses from apprenticeship requirements for public works projects
5. Remote work flexibility for prior tax incentive awardees
6. Flexibility for nonprofits to hold virtual meetings permanently and not just during health emergencies
7. State commission to coordinate re-skilling and up-skilling required to develop the post-pandemic workforce
8. Tax credits for Main Street/small businesses to help defray minimum wage increases

If you have any questions, please contact Chrissy Buteas at [cbuteas@njbja.org](mailto:cbuteas@njbja.org) or Chris Emigholz at [cemigholz@njbja.org](mailto:cemigholz@njbja.org).

Sincerely,

African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Inc.  
 American Camp Association NY/NJ  
 American Institute of Architects/ NJ Chapter.  
 American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey  
 American Physical Therapy Association of New Jersey  
 Big I New Jersey  
 BioNJ  
 Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Cape May County Chamber of Commerce  
 Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia  
Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey  
CLB NJ  
Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey  
CrossState Credit Union Association  
Downtown New Jersey  
Early Childhood Education Advocates  
Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce  
Employers Association of NJ  
Fuel Merchants Associates of NJ  
Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc  
Greater Atlantic City Chamber  
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce  
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey  
Hoboken Chamber of Commerce  
Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey  
Home Health Services Association of New Jersey  
Hudson County Chamber of Commerce  
Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce  
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of NJ  
Insurance Council of New Jersey  
Jersey Shore Partnership  
Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Marine Trades Association of New Jersey  
Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Meadowlands Chamber  
Monmouth Ocean Development Council  
Morris County Chamber of Commerce  
NAIOP-NJ  
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)  
Newark Venture Partners  
Newark Alliance  
Newark Regional Business Partnership  
New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association  
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies  
New Jersey Bankers Association  
New Jersey Builders Association  
New Jersey Business & Industry Association  
New Jersey Camps Government Affairs Project  
New Jersey Campground Owners and Outdoor Lodging Association  
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey Chemistry Council

New Jersey Civil Justice Institute  
New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers  
New Jersey Concrete and Aggregate Association  
New Jersey Council of County Colleges  
New Jersey Dental Association  
New Jersey Food Council  
New Jersey Gasoline-Convenience-Automotive Association  
New Jersey Hotel and Lodging Industry Association  
New Jersey Independent Electrical Contractors Association  
New Jersey Liquor Store Alliance  
New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc.  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
New Jersey Pharmacists Association  
New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society  
New Jersey Restaurant & Hospitality Association  
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association  
New Jersey Salon and Spa Coalition  
New Jersey Self Insurers Association  
New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants  
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association  
New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey Tourism Industry Association  
New Jersey Utilities Association  
New Jersey Warehousemen & Movers Association  
New Jersey Utilities Association  
New York Shipping Association, Inc.  
NJ Society of Optometric Physicians (NJSOP)  
North Jersey Jewish Business Alliance  
Ocean City Chamber of Commerce  
Phillipsburg Chamber of Commerce  
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Professional Insurance Agents of New Jersey (PIANJ)  
Recreational Fishing Alliance  
Salem County Chamber of Commerce  
Somerset County Business Partnership  
Southern NJ Development Council  
Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce  
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ  
Sussex County Chamber of Commerce  
TechUnited:NJ  
The Greater NJ Motorcoach Association  
The United Boatmen of N.J.  
Union Township Chamber of Commerce  
Utility & Transportation Contractors Association

Washington Borough BiD