

TIM SCOTT
SOUTH CAROLINA

104 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: (202) 224-6121
FAX: (202) 228-5143

scott.senate.gov

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
AGING
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Dear Ms. Morris,

Thank you for contacting me to express your views on H.R.6800, the HEROES Act. I value your input on this piece of legislation and the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

As you know, The HEROES Act, or the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives on May 12th. It was passed by the House three days later on Friday, May 15th--almost entirely along party lines. The legislation, which is the House Democrats' newest "solution" to fighting the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, is not a realistic relief proposal, and I am positive that it will not make it through the Senate.

Congress moved swiftly in March to pass the historic \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). We have all seen the benefits of the CARES Act since its enactment, and it has provided valuable funds to businesses, industries, states, local governments, hospitals, and individual taxpayers. I know that we will continue to see more benefits in the future, and I do not believe it is necessary to pass another legislative package with an even higher price tag.

The HEROES Act calls for an additional \$3 trillion in government spending. \$1 trillion of this funding would go toward bailing out state and local governments, many of which were irresponsible with their spending even before the pandemic. It would also eliminate the state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap through 2021, allowing a small number of wealthy tax filers to deduct significantly more of their state and local taxes from their federal tax bills.

The legislation would also extend the \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefit that was created under the CARES Act. This benefit, which has been provided on top of state unemployment benefits since the passage of the CARES Act, was meant to last until July 31st. The HEROES Act would extend it until January of 2021. While I am proud to have voted for the CARES Act, the goal of the legislation's unemployment benefits should have been to make people whole during this crisis--not to provide them with a raise for not working. Continuing to provide these benefits for another five months

would be counterproductive, as we all need to work together as a nation to get our economy back on track.

I obviously cannot touch on every provision that is included in the HEROES Act. At over 1,800 pages, I doubt that most members of the House of Representatives even read it before casting their vote. I can tell you, however, that I will remain open to realistic solutions to the problems that Americans are currently facing. **The HEROES Act is not one of those realistic solutions.**

Please know that I will continue working to deliver the assistance Americans so badly need during this difficult time, but know that I will do so in a way I will keep your thoughts in mind as the Senate continues to consider and deliberate additional legislative action.

Again, thank you for sharing your perspective with me; I hope that you will continue to do so in the future. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff.

For more information, please visit my website at www.scott.senate.gov and subscribe to my monthly e-newsletter. I also encourage you to follow me on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorTimScott and Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenatorTimScott for daily updates.

Sincerely,

Tim Scott
United States Senator

This communication is being sent via e-mail in order to save taxpayer dollars. If you would like a written letter, please notify our office. The information contained herein is intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. Please do not tamper with or alter this communication in any way.