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March 17, 2020

Dear Senator:

I am writing today on behalf of the members of the American Association of Meat Processors (AAMP) to voice our opposition to H.R. 6201 and the devastating effects it could have on small businesses.

AAMP is America's largest meat trade association representing approximately 1,500 establishments. There are 29 state, regional, and provincial associations of meat processors that are also affiliated with AAMP. The majority of our members are small and very small businesses, with most of them being family-owned and operated. The mission of AAMP is to provide our members with the regulatory, scientific and production support that they need to allow them to provide their customers with safe and wholesome products. H.R. 6201 in its current form has the potential to force many small businesses out of operation. Many of these businesses operate on small cash reserves. The outlay of money to pay up to two weeks of sick leave, or up to 12 weeks of Family Medical Leave, could leave them without the necessary cash flow to continue operating.

The members of AAMP play a vital role in the small rural areas they operate in by providing much-needed jobs and products to their communities. We are all concerned about the health and welfare of our employees and support the efforts to make sure everyone has their needs met, but to place that burden on the backs of small businesses seems counterproductive to the efforts to care for everyone. If a small business cannot financially support the paid leave for its employees and closes its doors, we now have more Americans out of work and in need of help because of it. We don't believe that any business should have to carry this burden, let alone the small businesses which appear to be the only ones required to offer these benefits.

Our hope today is that the Senate reviews the flaws in H.R. 6201 and makes the necessary changes to relieve the burden that is being placed on small businesses, and in turn, do more to strengthen and support businesses that are crucial to their rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher J. Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher J. Young  
Executive Director