

Senator Blunt,

I am reaching out to you as a Missourian who is deeply concerned about the small businesses and restaurants in St. Louis, their employees and the thriving restaurant industry in our state.

Over the past few days and weeks, we as a nation have come to understand the importance of taking swift, unified, drastic actions to do what is necessary to avoid placing restaurant employees, families and communities at risk of contracting or spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus.

One of Missouri's largest industries is the restaurant business. Currently restaurants are making the responsible choice to voluntarily close to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the service of public health. This will have a massive impact on countless restaurant workers across our state as well as the food supply chain those restaurants support. Closing restaurants will financially cripple many businesses and employees.

We are asking for your swift actions to support Missouri's small businesses and their employees. The following initiatives will be necessary to minimize the catastrophic economic impact that is certain to result in following our efforts to keep our communities safe.

- **Declare a disaster to make the SBA Disaster Loan available to Missouri's small business community**
- **Provide immediate emergency full and partial unemployment benefits for hourly and salaried workers impacted by necessary closing of businesses or reduction of hours WITHOUT negatively impacting employers' unemployment insurance tax rates**
- **Support federal legislation to provide paid sick or family leave to impacted workers**
- **Issue a temporary moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent by impacted residential tenants**

The people of Missouri are counting on your help and leadership to guide us through these uncertain times and to ease the burden of small businesses working to minimize the impact the coronavirus will have on the health and wellbeing of Missourians.

Sincerely,