



January 5, 2021

The Honorable Andreas Borgeas
State Capitol, Room 3082
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
State Capitol, Room 4144
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anna Caballero
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 74 Keep California Working Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Borgeas, Senator Caballero, and Assembly Member Petrie-Norris:

On behalf of UCAN – the United Chamber Advocacy Network, which includes six local chambers of commerce, representing over 5,000 employers in four northern California counties, we are pleased to support Senate Bill 74 to establish the Keep California Working Grant Program and award \$2.6 billion to small businesses and nonprofit organizations that have experienced economic hardship resulting from state and county directives associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please know that reopening California's economy is UCAN's preferred "economic stimulus." That said, we believe it is entirely appropriate for the legislature to direct surplus funds, much of which garnered from revenues associated with the increased activities of online technology firms and big box stores, to California's small businesses and non-profits.

We especially appreciate that SB 74 is presented as urgency legislation, which would allow funds to become available immediately.

We all know that small businesses make up the vast majority of businesses in California and majority of the private sector jobs in the state. Small businesses also represent the best of the American spirit of private enterprise and form the heart and soul of our main street communities. Sadly, that great spirit and hearty soul have been decimated during the lock down...soon to enter its tenth month.

We fear that if the Legislature doesn't provide cash relief now and reopen our economy soon, many more small businesses will close, employees laid off, communities adversely impacted, savings depleted and dreams shattered.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We urge all 116 of your colleagues to join you in support of SB 74, The Keep California working Act.

Sincerely,

David N. Butler
Advocate