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## **U.S. Senate Votes Down S. 4008**

As you know, in April the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act of 2021 (H.R. 3807). Among other provisions, the bill provides \$13 billion in new federal grant relief assistance for businesses hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, including eligible parks, attractions, and family entertainment centers. That bill moved to the Senate for further consideration.

Last week, we asked you to contact your Senators urging them to amend the Small Business COVID Relief Act of 2022 (S. 4008) to include the same provisions included in H.R. 3807. In its current form, S. 4008 provides \$48 billion in federal grant relief assistance to a few handpicked industries such as restaurants, live venue service providers, and providers of transportation services. It does not provide similar federal grant relief assistance for parks, attractions, and family entertainment centers.

Despite the bipartisan support of the House bill, and the coalition's best efforts in the Senate, S. 4008 cosponsors Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) and Roger Wicker (R-MS), and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, were unwilling to amend the bill. In fact, Senator Schumer filed a procedural motion to bring the current version of the bill to the Senate floor for a final vote. Fortunately, 52 Senators voted against the measure, which means S. 4008 as currently written is likely dead in the Senate. Unfortunately, this also means there is likely no path forward for H.R. 3807.

While this is a disappointing outcome, it is important to reiterate that our policy position continues to be "all travel and tourism businesses negatively impacted by government mandated closures should be eligible for additional federal grant relief, or none should be eligible". The success of H.R. 3807 and failure of S. 4008 is testimony that our message was heard loud and clear. Looking forward, the Biden Administration continues to hammer Congress on the need for additional COVID mitigation funding. In the event Congress reconsiders grant relief assistance within that debate, we'll advocate for the inclusion of the provisions passed by the House.

Concurrent to the above, working in collaboration with other impacted industries, the coalition continues to advocate for the reinstatement of fourth quarter 2021 access to the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC). In fact, we signed onto a [letter](#) to Congressional leadership today calling for the support of the

Employee Retention Tax Credit Reinstatement Act (H.R. 6161/S.3625). We will keep you informed if there is any progress on this issue.

We encourage you to remain engaged! Coalition advocates sent over 9,075 emails and social media messages to elected officials and met in person with more than 30 elected officials calling for equity in grant relief assistance. In fact, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer alone received more than 500 emails from coalition advocates. Additionally, our social media campaign generated over 1.2 million impressions and 24,569 clicks to the coalition's landing page, and we were featured in news articles in Politico, Roll Call, Bloomberg, and Amusement Today.

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