



1201 F St NW #200
Washington, D.C. 20004

1-800-552-5342
NFIB.com

March 18, 2020

Dear Senator:

On behalf of NFIB, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in opposition to the Murray/Gillibrand amendment to H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. This amendment would extend and expand the paid sick and paid family and medical leave mandates on small businesses of all sizes. **The Murray/Gillibrand amendment to H.R. 6201 will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 116th Congress.**

The Murray/Gillibrand amendment would require every employer to provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked capped at a maximum of 56 hours or seven days. This mandate would apply to all employers large and small, and the leave can be used for any type of sick leave, *including ailments entirely unrelated to COVID-19*. This amendment would also require employers to provide up to 14 additional sick days for public health emergencies. Employers would be reimbursed by Treasury for emergency paid sick and family leave relating to public health emergencies in 2020 and 2021.

NFIB members are struggling due to the economic disruption caused by COVID-19. An NFIB survey from last week found that COVID-19 has negatively impacted 23% of NFIB members, and 43% of all respondents expect to be affected at some point in the next three months. However, NFIB opposes the inclusion of additional mandates for paid sick leave and paid medical and family leave that some small business owners simply can't afford.

While paid sick leave is an excellent benefit that all employers hope to be able to offer one day, unfortunately, not all businesses can afford to provide that benefit today. Some small employers simply do not have the operating budget to afford this benefit. Mandating an additional cost on small businesses that cannot afford it will result in businesses closing. In a recent NFIB member ballot, 86% of NFIB members opposed requiring small employers to provide paid sick leave.

NFIB opposes the Murray/Gillibrand amendment to H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, and will consider the bill a Key Vote for the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Kuhlman".

Kevin Kuhlman
Senior Director, Federal Government Relations
NFIB