



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U. S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We are writing to express our concerns over the recent court rulings forcing the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to halt critical pandemic relief to women, veteran, and minority-owned Michigan restaurants. Thousands of small businesses across the country who had been approved, including many in Michigan, are now left wondering how they are going to stay open.

These women, veteran, and minority-owned small businesses were some of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and were overlooked by the previous administration. As you know, Congress prioritized these businesses under the Restaurant Revitalization Fund to ensure they were not bypassed again and were able to get the help they need. Unfortunately, due to court rulings in Texas and Tennessee, relief to these deserving prioritized businesses was blocked, shutting them out once again.

Michigan's food and beverage providers have remained resilient throughout the pandemic and are often cornerstones of their communities, supporting thousands of jobs and families across the state. As we put Michiganders back to work, it is imperative that we continue to provide the supports needed to all businesses, especially those that are underserved, to recover from COVID-19 and boost our economic jumpstart. We know you share this mission, and we urge you to do all that you can to quickly provide alternative resources to the small businesses effected by the recent court rulings.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garlin Gilchrist II".

Garlin Gilchrist II
Lieutenant Governor