

Statements of Support for Senator Hassan's Bipartisan *Recovery Startup Assistance Act*

The Senate voted to advance comprehensive COVID-19 relief, which included the [bipartisan Recovery Startup Assistance Act that Senator Hassan introduced](#) to provide payroll assistance through the Employee Retention Tax Credit to new small businesses started during the pandemic. The bill will support entrepreneurship and help new businesses create jobs throughout the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statements of Support from Businesses Leaders in New Hampshire

Mike Skelton, CEO of the Greater Manchester Chamber: “As the largest chamber in New Hampshire, we have seen firsthand how this pandemic has impacted a variety of businesses in our state, including new businesses that are just trying to get off the ground. Start-up businesses will be essential to our economic recovery and need access to federal support programs like those that have been available to established businesses since early on in the pandemic. This new proposal expands federal support to new businesses in a meaningful way and we’re encouraged it’s attracting bipartisan support.”

Mike Somers, CEO/President of the New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association: “The businesses we work with have been at the forefront of finding innovative ways to serve people amid this pandemic. We are encouraged to see new restaurants and hotels open up at such a difficult time, and they should have the same type of assistance that other businesses have as they contribute to communities and our economic recovery. Thank you to Senator Hassan for leading this important effort.”

Ashley Haseltine, President of Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce: “New businesses are already playing a critical role in rebuilding our economy, creating jobs, and serving our communities. But they’ve been largely left behind in relief efforts so far. We’re glad to see Senator Hassan lead the charge in Congress to help new businesses get payroll support now that will help them prosper when we come out of this pandemic.”

Statements of Support from New Businesses in New Hampshire

Adam Hammill, Owner of Exile Burrito in Berlin: “Exile Burrito is a veteran-owned small business in Berlin, NH. We opened in May of 2020, and begun with 14 employees, and have had to scale down to 10, just to stay afloat. We have not only been shut out of the PPP loans, and other stimulus, traditional lending institutions refuse to lend to us, regardless of positive equity and no debt. I saw so much potential in our community, that I was determined to move forward cautiously with the plan to open our family-owned restaurant, regardless of COVID 19. We desperately need the ability to hire more employees and The Recovery Startup Assistance Act, would allow us to continue to grow and expand, through additional hiring.”

Tukaram Bodke, Owner of Destination India in Derry: “Opening up a restaurant in the middle of a pandemic has not always been easy, and we’re grateful to Senator Hassan for her efforts to ensure that future federal relief can go to newer, smaller businesses like ours. In our first month, we have been delighted to serve authentic, Indian cuisine to the Derry community and we intend to continue growing and hiring new employees, which will be made easier if we can access the same type of assistance as other businesses.”

Kim Clark, Owner of Ciao Trattoria & Wine Bar in Durham: “We opened in 2020 after years of planning. New small businesses are the heart of main street, the lack of support they have received during this pandemic will have lasting effects if help is not allocated. Keeping people employed is the goal for all of us and until we are able to return to full capacity help is needed in this goal. We want to keep people employed, assistance in getting us through these next challenging months will assure that we can do this. We have invested in our community, we are asking for support in helping us to continue to do this.”

Joel Nkounkou, Founder and CEO of ecoText in Durham: "It's important to support small, nimble, and agile start-ups, especially through the storm of COVID-19. Start-ups like ecoText and those similarly powered by passion and a mission to provide significant impact, are vibrant to the New Hampshire business ecosystem. They certainly should not be left out of any assistance or potential relief packages.”

Judi Window, Owner of Diz’s Cafe in Manchester: “Being life-long local NH residents who had aspirations of opening a small, owner run restaurant in 2020, turned out to be very different experience than our business plan envisioned in January 2020. We were on schedule and on budget to open April 1, 2020. But the joke was on us! The pandemic came in full-force in March closing down not only our city and state, but the entire world. Gritting our teeth, we persevered and opened our take out window on May 29th. Followed by opening our doors with strict Covid-19 guidelines. Thinking the summer or fall or winter would be better, it’s now March 2021 and now worse. We need help. We need support. We need people. Without being an income producing company in 2019, it has limited our application for funds. Yes, we have received a little funding, but we need more to make it through this next push towards “normal” life. We thank Senator Hassan and all of our NH officials who have been working diligently on behalf of NH’s small and new businesses.”