**TEMPLATE LETTER FOR NATION LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN TO CBC**

April **[INSERT DATE HERE**], 2020

Congressional Black Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Via Email: Black.Caucus@mail.house.gov

Re: Black Business Empowerment
and the COVID-19 Relief Package

Dear Congressional Black Caucus:

On March 20th, 2020, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Minority Leader Charles Schumer. The letter offered proposals to assist Black Americans as Congress negotiated the funding of Coronavirus relief efforts. **[INSERT NAME OF YOUR CITY OR STATE HERE]**‘s Black Businesses are concerned that the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) did not adequately advocate for the Black Business community.

The Congressional Black Caucus’ letter and the 94 initiatives proposed failed to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the systemic challenges facing Black businesses, which were only 2% of the business in America before COVID 19 and are now facing extinction.
2. Demonstrate an understanding that asking for only $10 Million in a 2T relief package equated to only $3.86 per Black-owned business.
3. Mention non-farming Black business or Black business owners as the most important factor to helping the Black community move forward after the COVID 19 Crisis.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between’ small’ businesses vs. ‘Minority’ businesses vs. ‘Black-owned’ businesses.
5. Realize ‘Minority’ represents all groups that are non-white males. Minority does not equate to ‘Black’.
6. Designate or suggest designating funding specifically for Black-owned businesses.
7. Designate or suggest designating funding specifically for Black people affected by COVID-19.
8. Designate funding specifically for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) that are not shared with other primary white academic colleges, universities or social institutions.

Further, Prosperity Now and the Institute for Policy Studies jointly issued a report in September 2017 that said—if current trends continue, the median household wealth for Black families will decline to $0 by 2053. Note; this September 2017 report DID NOT account for the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering the lackluster COVID-19 relief $3.86 for each Black business in America and the Black community will definitely fall to $0 wealth by 2053.

**$0 household wealth cannot be the legacy our generation leaves for our children and grandchildren!**

Given the above, **[INSERT NAME OF YOUR CITY OR STATE HERE]**‘s Black Businesses recommends that the Congressional Black Caucus negotiate immediate funding to specifically provide relief to Black-owned businesses during and after this national crisis. As an elected official do not continue to ignore the economic health of the Black community. Instead put in measures in place that will ensure the economic health of the Black community during and after the current COVID-19 crisis. The Black business community across the nation is watching. We will respond accordingly as the 2020 and 2021 election seasons unfold. We thank you for your sincere and urgent consideration of the concerns detailed above.

Respectfully,

**[INSERT NAME OF YOUR CITY OR STATE HERE]’**s Black Businesses Community.