



June 3, 2020

The Honorable Russell T. Vought
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Acting Director Vought,

As the United States begins to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses and their employees will continue to face obstacles as they work to navigate a new and more challenging environment. Over the past few months, Congress has appropriated funds to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis created by the mandatory shelter in place orders for individuals at the state and local level. These measures have helped keep many small businesses afloat but as the country looks to fully re-open, we think it is essential that the federal government do more provide a roadmap for businesses that is paved without unnecessary roadblocks and burdensome regulations.

Thankfully, the Administration took a number of steps to reduce our federal regulatory burden well before this crisis began. After President Trump signed Executive Order 13771, \$50.9 billion in regulatory costs were eliminated in just three years.¹ We also commend the decisive action taken by the Administration to cut unnecessary red tape that could have hindered the response efforts since the crisis began. This is exemplified in ways such as the Department of Health and Human Services allowing doctors to practice medicine across state lines. Additionally, its decision to allow doctors to provide telehealth services for Medicare patients, among other relief, will provide the health care sector with the flexibility it needs to operate as efficiently as possible during this crisis and potentially beyond.² All facets of our economy, from retail to education, are now facing critical challenges over how to protect their employees and continue to provide services to their communities. I applaud the Administration's recognition of these challenges by recently issuing Executive Order 13924, which encourages agencies to promote economic recovery through non-regulatory actions.³ However, more needs to be done to ensure regulations waived during this crisis do not provide unnecessary burdens in the future.

Although some argued that these regulations were reasonable before the COVID-19 pandemic, the burden that many of these regulations create for everyday Americans is now abundantly clear. Therefore, to facilitate this historic work of regulatory review, we urge you to work with the Administration to sunset all federal regulations that have been waived and continue to be waived during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing the rules to go back through the regulatory process to determine whether these regulations should be temporary or permanent. Consistent cost-benefit analysis and retrospective review on all regulations, including those produced by independent agencies, will help to ensure they will not cause undue harm in the future. We recognize that strong leadership from the Office

1. https://www.reginfo.gov/public/pdf/eo13771/EO_13771_Final_Accounting_for_Fiscal_Year_2019.pdf

2. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>

3. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-regulatory-relief-support-economic-recovery/>

of Information and Regulatory Affairs plays an important role in the facilitation of this request. It is imperative the federal government continues to lessen the burden of unnecessary regulations in a systematic manner moving forward since we do not know where the next crisis may strike.

We look forward to your response and working with you to take decisive actions on this request.

Sincerely,



David A. Perdue
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Michael S. Lee
United States Senator



Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator