

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2021

The Honorable Isabel Guzman
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman,

We are writing regarding Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) grants that were rescinded by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The RRF is an incredibly valuable program that has been essential to keeping restaurants in business. By requiring the rescission of grants that have been previously awarded, the Sixth District Court of Appeals^[1] ruling in *Antonio Vitolo, et al v. Isabella Guzman* is stripping away one of the last lifelines available to many minority and women-owned businesses.

Restaurant owners across the country have faced incredible challenges over the past year. They have been forced to cease indoor dining, adapt to takeout and delivery service, lay-off long time employees, and make numerous other changes in order to keep their businesses alive. We voted to establish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund because as our country emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, many restaurants still require assistance as the public reacclimates to their previous dining habits. The reports of restaurant owners who received these grants, only to have them rescinded, have been heartbreaking; in many cases the rescission means they will be unable to keep their doors open.

The implications of the court's ruling are incredibly serious for many minority and women-owned businesses, and we call on your agency to do everything possible to honor the grants that were given and to provide relief funding to those applicants who through no fault of their own have now been pushed to the back of the line. These politically motivated lawsuits seek not to improve the function of the RRF, but to disrupt the SBA's ability to assist the businesses who are in the most dire need of assistance, and we would encourage your agency take all necessary steps to fulfill your mission to support small businesses who have lost their funding.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund was designed to help one of the hardest hit industries get back on its feet. As your agency works through the consequences of the court's ruling, we request that you work with applicants who had their grants rescinded to help them access any and all other available sources of small business relief. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your work on behalf of small businesses throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair

Judy Chu
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair

^[1] <https://www.opn.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/21a0120p-06.pdf>

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