



The Premium Cigar Association (PCA) representing 3,000 specialty retailers and 30,000 employees applauds the efforts of Congress and the Administration to address the coronavirus pandemic, its public health threat, and economic consequences to main street small businesses. PCA supports initiatives to help bolster the economy in this time of need, including several provisions in H.R. 6021, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, including payroll tax credits for employee-provided paid sick leave and SBA expanded disaster loans, but has reservations on the Family Medical Leave Expansion outlined below. These concerns can be alleviated with adoption of the following provisions:

1. Cancellation of payroll taxes for small business employers for the 12 weeks following enactment.
2. Bolstering the Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan program by immediately opening it nation-wide and simplifying acceptance into the program. This will allow small businesses to get an infusion of resources quickly to sustain through this hardship.
3. Statutorily exempt businesses with fewer than 50 employees from the extension of the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. Although this bill grants the Secretary of Labor authority to issue this exemption, this bill is aimed at providing quick relief and should not result in more red tape and bureaucratic discretion. Many employers provide paid family and medical leave, but small businesses of this size are particularly vulnerable to unexpected costs, especially during a distressed period.

PCA's members hope to continue to provide quality jobs and the necessary resources to fuel the American economy. As you consider proposals to address the economic consequences of COVID-19, we hope that you will consider our views as you expeditiously seek solutions to the challenges we face.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Anderson
President
Premium Cigar Association