

OCTOBER 20, 2020

National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) Statement Re: Heroes Small Business Lifeline Act

It has been a brutal seven months as we've had to watch hundreds of independent venues shutter forever through no fault of their own. We have no revenue, crushing overhead, and no idea when we can reopen, which has set the stage for a mass collapse of our industry if we don't get the help we have been requesting since the beginning of the pandemic.

We're encouraged to hear that [the Heroes Small Business Lifeline Act](#) introduced by Senators Schumer, Cardin and Shaheen contains the same provisions in the bipartisan Save Our Stages Act which passed in the House last month. NIVA thanks these senators for their leadership.

As of today, The SOS Act has 49 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. We know there's momentum and understanding in Congress that this industry is among the very hardest hit and needs emergency relief to be able to hold on until we can reopen safely and return to serving as the economic engines for our communities.

Unfortunately, previous Payroll Protection Plans do not work for this industry because we're shut, so sadly we've been forced to furlough about 95% of our employees. While nearly 90% of America's businesses are operating, as gathering places, we are not.

This is urgent. Our members cannot wait any longer for emergency relief. Once independent venues go under, they do not come back. We respectfully implore our elected officials to come together and Save Our Stages.

For a one sheet explanation of the bill, click [here](#).

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About NIVA

Formed at the onset of the COVID-19 shutdown, National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), now represents more than 2,900 members in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. These independent venues and promoters were the first to close and will be the last to fully reopen. NIVA's mission is to preserve and nurture the ecosystem of independent live venues, promoters and festivals throughout the United States. To learn more about NIVA's quest to gain federal funding for independent venues, visit <https://www.nivassoc.org/take-action>. To learn more about the NIVA Emergency Relief Fund, visit <https://www.nivassoc.org/erf>.