



July 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

I am writing on behalf of the National Retail Federation to express our support for the Healthy Workplace Tax Credit (S 4214) introduced yesterday by Senator Rob Portman. Consumer-facing businesses are confronting considerable new costs to make their workplaces safe for their customers and associates. This investment demands liquidity at a time when retailers are facing greatly reduced sales. The Healthy Workplace Tax Credit will help to provide some of this liquidity by providing a credit against current payroll tax liability for a portion of the expenses incurred in employee protection and workplace reconfiguration to address social distancing needs.

The National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail thrive. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

To create a healthy workplace during this pandemic, retailers have had to retrofit their structures and purchase new fixtures to accomplish social distancing. In some cases, they have also had to invest in new ventilation and air filtration systems. On an ongoing basis, they are investing in PPE, testing, and cleaning. One mid-market retailer tells us that these ongoing costs average one million dollars per week for the rest of the year.

It is essential that we bring our economy back by ensuring that the consuming public is safe to shop again and that the retail associates that assist them are safe, as well. The healthy workplace tax credit will go a long way to provide some additional liquidity for making the necessary investments in our stores and workers. We urge you support S 4214, and help the nation's largest employer get back to business.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

CC: Members of Senate