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## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### **TITLE OF LEGISLATION:**

H.R.6497 (Rep. Fitzpatrick) - Never Again Small Business Protection Act of 2020

### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:**

To make available insurance coverage for business interruption losses due to national emergencies, and other purposes.

### **REASONS FOR SUPPORT:**

The Long Island Builders Institute, which has approximately 600 members in the building and construction industry, would like to express its strong support towards H.R. 6497 regarding business interruption insurance coverage. Many businesses have faced severe negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. They have had to close or limit their business to the public resulting in loss of sales. Many of these businesses that are attempting to get the help they need from their insurers but are being denied because their coverage doesn't include a pandemic.

Many of these businesses have been paying into business interruption insurance for years, but insurers are not following through with claims being made. There is frustration with business owners because they have been paying monthly premiums to their insurance company with the expectation that they would be covered. The situation is costing billions of dollars. Businesses are beginning to sue their insurers which also creates additional complications since the courts are also minimally functioning. There will be a significant impact on the economy if the problem continues to persist because businesses are being forced to lay off their employees and are unable to pay rent. If a business has been paying for business interruption insurance, then the insurance company should honor the claim and the government should intervene to ensure it's being enforced.

**The Long Island Builders Institute strongly supports this legislation.**