



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

May 19, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington DC 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza,

As the Small Business Administration (SBA) continues to update rules and guidance for the distribution of funds appropriated for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Advance, I request that you clarify your position on how the SBA is using applicants' criminal history to determine loan eligibility.

The most recent guidelines issued by your agency state that any applicant who has been, "convicted; pleaded guilty; pleaded nolo contendere; been placed on pretrial diversion; or been placed on any form of parole or probation (including probation before judgment)," in the last five years is ineligible for PPP assistance. It is imperative that you clarify whether or not applicants who fall into one of these categories, but have served their time or completed their punitive requirements before submitting their application, will be deemed ineligible. Furthermore, I urge you to specify whether or not those applicants whose felony charges never led to a conviction, but instead were dismissed after completion of pretrial diversion, will be denied access to PPP assistance.

Thus far, the SBA has failed to provide any sort of reasoning for requiring applicants to indicate whether they have any history of a criminal offense other than a minor vehicle violation. I request that you provide a detailed explanation as to how criminal history is being used to determine distribution of the \$10,000 EIDL Advances.

One in three Americans has a criminal record. Denying assistance to rehabilitated citizens who have served their sentences and contributed to the economy is unjust and harmful to our nations' recovery from this pandemic. Without access to these programs, many of these businesses will be forced to close and their employees will lose their jobs.

DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT NEVADA



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With this in mind, I ask that the SBA issue specific guidance on how criminal history is being used in the distribution of congressionally appropriated assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Also signed by:

Adam Smith
Alcee L. Hastings
Barbara Lee
Bill Foster
Danny K. Davis
David Cicilline
David Trone
Deb Haaland
Earl Blumenauer
Eliot L. Engel
Jan Schakowsky
Marcia L. Fudge
Mike Doyle
Rashida Tlaib
Steven Horsford