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would give small businesses new coronavirus pandemic assistance that could be used to pay expenses such as rent and taxes rather than just employee wages.

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The National Retail Federation is applauding legislation introduced by Congress that would give small businesses new coronavirus pandemic assistance that could be used to pay expenses such as rent and taxes rather than just employee wages.

“This legislation is an excellent complement to the business assistance provided under the CARES Act,” NRF Vice President for Government Relations, Banking and

Financial Services Leon Buck said. “Congress has provided significant help to

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state or local taxes, certain debt obligations and employee benefits such as health care. In addition, the fund would have a simplified online application offering an immediate decision and direct deposit of funds within 15 days. Doing so would address complaints that earlier programs were complicated and often took too long to get a response.

NRF is a member of the America's Recovery Fund Coalition, which supports the measure. NRF cited the bill in a [letter](#) sent to Congress earlier this week spelling out priorities for comprehensive pandemic relief legislation currently being drafted by House and Senate leaders.

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