

From: Tori Emerson Barnes, U.S. Travel Association

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Subject: [EXT] American Rescue Plan Passes



PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Congress just passed President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package includes much-needed federal assistance and substantial support to aid our industry's recovery:

- **\$350 billion to states and local governments, with explicit authority given to allow funds to aid the travel and tourism industry**
- **\$3 billion for Economic Development Administration grants, with 25% (\$750 million) set aside for communities affected by job loss in travel and tourism**
- **Extends the Employee Retention Tax Credit through the end of 2021** and adds enhancements for businesses experiencing at least a 90% decline in revenue
- **\$8 billion in grants for airports with an \$800 million set-aside for airport concessionaires**
- **\$15 billion to airlines** through the Payroll Support Program
- **Ensures that eligible applicants for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program can access both SVOG and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**
- **\$7.25 billion to the PPP** and allows larger nonprofits to qualify
- **\$12.7 billion for a national vaccination program**, which creates community inoculation centers nationwide along with mobile units for hard-to-reach areas
- **\$50 billion to improve testing and contact tracing capabilities**

You can find a more [comprehensive summary of all travel-related provisions](#) here. A summary of the full bill [can be found here](#).

ACCESSING RELIEF

Join us on Tuesday, March 16 at 12:00 p.m. ET for a webinar where our government relations team will walk through the travel-related provisions provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as share details on how to access available relief.

REGISTER FOR WEBINAR

In the coming days, we will also be updating our [Travel Relief Resources](#) webpage with the latest information and links to relevant government agencies.

MORE WORK TO BE DONE

While we are highly supportive of the latest COVID recovery package and the critical relief it provides, **several additional much-needed provisions are not included.** We are calling on Congress to:

- [Extend the PPP deadline](#) through June 30 and provide a third draw loan for the **hardest-hit industries.** The PPP is set to expire in just three weeks with plenty of money still available. Travel businesses of all sizes still need access to the loans the program provides to keep their doors open and staff employed.
- [Pass the Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act.](#) This legislation would accelerate rehiring and drive demand to travel through temporary tax credits.

We will be sharing these asks directly with members of Congress on March 17 during Destination Capitol Hill and we will likely be calling on all our industry to activate in the near term as we advance our collective priorities.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work to secure additional relief, as well as the stimulus needed to spur travel demand. Together, we will revive our vibrant industry, help rebuild the U.S. economy and put Americans back to work.

Best,



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