

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to inform you that I am developing the Pandemic Risk Insurance Act of 2020, to create the Pandemic Risk Reinsurance Program, a system of shared public and private compensation for business interruption losses resulting from future pandemics or public health emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused untold health, social, and economic damage in my home state of New York and across the nation. Although the situation continues to be fluid, we do know that the economic ramifications are unlike anything our country has ever experienced; in the last two weeks alone, a record 10 million Americans filed for unemployment compensation. As the number and duration of state-level quarantines continue to grow, so too will the economic harm small business owners will incur through no fault of their own. Main Street's ability to recover from today's pandemic will determine the stability and viability of our national economy in the face of future pandemics.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Pandemic Risk Insurance Act (PRIA) would be an important step in our prevention efforts against future pandemics by both requiring insurance companies to offer business interruption insurance policies that cover pandemics, and creating a Pandemic Risk Reinsurance Program to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to cover these losses and protect our economy in the event of a future pandemic. Like the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA), the federal government would serve as a backstop to maintain marketplace stability and to share the burden alongside private industry.

To learn more about the Pandemic Risk Insurance Act of 2020, please contact Jake Friedman at [Jake.Friedman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jake.Friedman@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress