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ELECTIONS/GREAT SEAL

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

June 25, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

With life getting back to normal, I am laser-focused on giving our state an economic jumpstart by creating jobs with higher wages, helping small businesses get the capital they need to ramp up hiring and boost investment, and making sure every family has access to affordable, quality childcare.

Small businesses that did everything right over the last year should be celebrated and rewarded. We are fortunate that the American Rescue Plan includes the federal resources we need to help jumpstart our economy. I am supportive of a grant program to help small businesses defray the cost of purchasing personal protective equipment to keep their employees safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, House Bills 4224 and 4225 fall short, because they would create a tax credit rather than a grant program, making the expense ineligible for American Rescue Plan dollars. I encourage the legislature to send me bills that would allow us to send these federal relief dollars to hard-working business owners who've kept their employees and customers safe over the past 15 months.

Finally, I know we all share a commitment to sound fiscal management, embodied in a good faith agreement to run any legislation with a fiscal impact through the budget process. These bills run counter the spirit of that agreement, so I am vetoing them.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate on negotiated legislation that creates a grant program to help small businesses defray the cost of buying PPE to keep their employees safe.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Michigan Senate
The Honorable Jocelyn Benson