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Community Development Bankers Association (CDBA) Endorses *The Jobs And Neighborhood Investment Act*; Urges Congress To Swiftly Pass Key Legislation

New bill led by Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Kamala Harris (D-CA), and Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY) will provide targeted relief and boost access to critical resources for low-income communities and communities of color, which have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Washington, DC, July 20, 2020 – Today, the Community Development Bankers Association (CDBA), the national trade association for banks that are Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), announced its support for *The Jobs and Neighborhood Investment Act*. CDBA is the voice and champion of banks with a mission of serving distressed and underserved communities. Crafted with input from CDBA, the newly introduced legislation would provide community-based lenders, including CDFI banks, with capital, liquidity, and operational capacity to expand the flow of credit into underserved communities, providing affordable access to credit for lower-income borrowers and helping small businesses stay afloat.

The impact of the coronavirus on the most vulnerable communities in our nation is unprecedented. Low-income and minority communities suffer disproportionately from job losses and the troubling threats of housing, health, and food insecurity. It is imperative that we strengthen these communities through targeted economic investment that protects businesses and jobs. To mitigate and offset the paralyzing impact of the pandemic on these communities, this bill would allocate \$18 billion to CDFIs and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) in the form of direct capital investments, grants, and community investment loans.

CDBA President and CEO Jeannine Jacokes released the following statement:

“The Community Development Bankers Association is proud to have helped shape *The Jobs and Neighborhood Investment Act*. This initiative is exactly what is needed to help low-income and communities of color rebuild. The tools created by the Act will empower CDFIs to help small businesses survive and thrive and communities to recover.

“The Jobs and Neighborhood Investment Act provides vital resources so that community-based lenders, such as CDFI banks, can fulfill their mission to serve underserved communities. With these new resources, CDFI banks will continue to help very small businesses in low-income communities preserve and restore jobs. New resources will also help ensure access to affordable housing is maintained and expanded, and community facilities and nonprofits will have the support they need to mitigate the effects of the crisis on the fabric of low-income neighborhoods.

“Perhaps most crucially, the Act provides \$2.9 billion in funding to the CDFI Fund, to further promote economic revitalization and community development through the distribution of grants and technical assistance for CDFIs. Over the past 25 years, the CDFI Fund has proved to be one of the Federal government’s best market-based strategies for leveraging large amounts of private dollars to restore economic vitality in underserved markets. The proposed \$2.9 billion will leverage up to 12-times that amount in private dollars, resulting in nearly \$35 billion of patient, flexible capital to serve the low- and moderate-income families and communities that have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 health and economic crisis.

“We are grateful to Senators Warner, Harris, and Booker and to Congressman Meeks for their leadership on this important bill and look forward to seeing its swift passage in the U.S. Congress.”

The lead sponsors of the Senate version of the bill include Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Kamala Harris (D-CA), and Cory Booker (D-NJ). Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY 5th District) is the lead sponsor of the companion bill in the House of Representatives.

In addition to the CDBA, the legislation has the broad support of several CDFI and related trade groups. A summary of the Jobs and Neighborhood Investment Act is available [here](#).

About CDBA

The Community Development Bankers Association is the voice and champion of the community development banking movement. CDBA and its 81 CDFI-certified and mission-aligned member banks work to make the banking industry a force for good by collectively promoting financial inclusion and creating economic opportunity in the nation’s most economically distressed rural and urban communities.

<http://www.cdbanks.org/>

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