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📰 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In March of 2020, the governments of Mexico, Canada, and the United States imposed restrictions on non-essential border crossings to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The regular foot traffic from Mexican and Canadian consumers, which is vital to American businesses near the border, has come to a near standstill. The U.S. Department of Transportation border crossing data shows that crossings through Nogales Port of Entry were reduced by nearly seventy-five percent from April 2019 to April 2020, which was the first full month in which restrictions were in place.

Border economies are interdependent; with travel restrictions on both borders nearing the year mark, border businesses have been severely damaged. The City of Nogales, on the Arizona-Mexico border, reported sales tax revenues of $776,000 in April 2020, a thirty percent decline from $1.1 million in revenues reported for April 2019. Nearly three-quarters of respondents to the Census Bureau's Small Business Pulse Survey reported a decrease in weekly revenue in the last week of April. On the same survey, at least half of small businesses in states with transnational borders consistently reported stagnated or decreased weekly revenues through the end of 2020.

✓ KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The Border Business COVID Rescue Act provides targeted funds to address the unique economic injuries impacting small businesses as a result of public health emergencies related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a Small Business Administration Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, this bill:

- Provides immediate $10,000 advanced loans that do not requisre repayment
- Provides loans of up to $500,000 for eligible expenses
- Allows the SBA to forgive up to 100 percent of the loans
- Targets funds to qualifying small border businesses with Adjusted Gross Incomes under $500,000 within 25 miles of a U.S. border