

## **Biden Boosts Businesses—Republicans go AWOL**

*Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 10.07.21*

North Carolina lost [571,500 jobs from the COVID recession](#). [Tourism and leisure spending collapsed, devastating the area's economy](#). President Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP) brought help: [\\$1400 cash per person](#) plus [\\$844 per capita in state/local aid](#).

The [Wilmington Chamber of Commerce used Biden's aid to award \\$4.2 million to 192 hospitality, retail, and service businesses with 3,700 local employees. Of these small businesses, 136 are owned by veterans, minorities, or women.](#)

Small business owners and their employees are the backbone of our local economy and have been hit hard by the pandemic. President Biden's ARP funds are bringing help they desperately need.

ARP passed with only Democratic votes. Senators Burr and Tillis and Rep. Rouzer joined every Republican in opposing ARP and the relief our small businesses are getting today. In contrast, when [President Trump shut down the economy in 2020](#) and asked Congress to pass the CARES Act, [Democrats voted for it unanimously](#).

It's shocking, but not surprising that Republicans are playing politics and going AWOL. They [would rather see President Biden's proposals fail](#) than work with him to pass the help we need, even when their own voters get hurt.

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