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**PAYMENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL APPLAUDS THE EXTENSION OF
THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM**

Washington, D.C. – The Payments Leadership Council's Founding Director Raj Date issued the following statement today after the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act of 2021 passed Congress to extend the program to May 31.

"The Payments Leadership Council applauds the extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, which provides our nation's small businesses with important resources to keep doors open and employees on board.

Members of the Payments Leadership Council have facilitated access to billions of loan dollars through the Paycheck Protection Program to date and enabled businesses of all sizes to utilize innovative payment solutions that improve resiliency and recovery and further their ability to serve customers. Small businesses and merchants are the lifeblood of our communities and continue to face incredible difficulties as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The payments industry will continue to work towards inclusive economic recovery and growth across the nation."

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