

May 20, 2020

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The undersigned chambers of commerce urge Congress to pass timely, temporary and targeted liability relief legislation to provide businesses a safe harbor from unwarranted lawsuits that, left unchecked, will endanger the fight against the pandemic and undermine the safe and orderly return to work for millions of Americans.

From distillers who switched to producing hand sanitizers, to manufacturers that transformed their operations to construct personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators, to front line medical professionals treating the afflicted, to pharmaceutical companies that are expediting research into cures, American businesses have rallied to fight the pandemic. During the stay-at-home orders, essential businesses have remained open and innovated in ways that permitted them to continue to provide critical services and supplies. Now millions of other businesses are in the process of reopening, desiring to do so in a safe manner that protects their employees and customers.

This is an unprecedented situation and despite employers' best efforts to comply with public health guidance, many are concerned that they will be forced to defend themselves against a wave of lawsuits. Their concern is driven by the fact that each day brings news of more lawsuits that have already been filed. That is why Congress should provide a safe harbor that holds truly bad actors accountable, but that protects those employers who are working to follow public health guidance. Specifically, temporary protections should remain in place for the duration of the pandemic crisis and response that cover:

- Businesses that work to follow government guidelines against COVID-19 exposure claims.
- Healthcare providers and facilities on the front lines of the COVID-19 response.
- Manufacturers that repurposed production and distribution to provide PPE, sanitizers, and other needed countermeasures.
- Companies that have donated their stock of supplies to hospitals and medical professionals.
- Public companies that could face securities lawsuits, including those driven largely on stock price drops resulting from the global pandemic under the spurious assertion that management failed to warn investors.

To ensure that we continue to wage war against the pandemic while also safely returning Americans to work, Congress must act without delay.

Sincerely,

Business Council of Alabama  
Alaska Chamber  
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/AIA

California Chamber of Commerce  
Colorado Chamber of Commerce  
Connecticut Business & Industry Association  
DC Chamber of Commerce  
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce  
Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce  
Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
Iowa Association of Business and Industry  
Kansas Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry  
Maine State Chamber of Commerce  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Associated Industries of Massachusetts  
Michigan Chamber of Commerce  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
Mississippi Economic Council  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Montana Chamber of Commerce  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire  
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
New Mexico Association of Commerce & Industry  
The Business Council of New York State  
North Carolina Chamber  
Greater North Dakota Chamber  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce  
State Chamber of Oklahoma  
Oregon Business and Industry  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce  
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce  
South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Texas Association of Business  
Salt Lake Chamber  
Vermont Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Association of Washington Business  
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce