

#### **Coronavirus Business Impacts**

Sandra McDonough March 18, 2020

# The Impact

- Every community
- Every industry
- Businesses of all size

EVERYBODY IS FEELING THE EFFECTS



## **Businesses Already Taking Actions**

- Many have instituted remote working practices
- On-site health screening
- Social distancing practices
  - Manufacturers included
- Paid time off increased
- Utilities have stopped cut-offs, late fees, interest on late accounts
- Charitable giving



## **Priorities**

- Protect the health of all Oregonians
- Ensure our workers get paid and maintain benefits
- Enable people to take time off
- Protect jobs in the long-term



## **Business Association Letter**

































































#### Protect the Unemployment Insurance Fund

- Invest corporate kicker in UI Fund
- Create immediate access for workers displaced by business closures or downturns
- Eliminate job search requirement, and one-week waiting period
- Eliminate six-month employment requirement for Workshare benefit eligibility



#### Address Cash Flow Challenges

- Delay CAT implementation in first quarter
  - Consider second quarter delay if crisis continues
- Access to money
  - Direct Business Oregon to work with financial institutions to help small businesses get access to low- and no-interest loans and/or payment deferrals
- Small business help
  - Create a small business concierge



#### Address tax issues

- Delay filing deadlines
- Identify incentives for proactive steps by employers
  - Tax credits for employers who provide additional time off
  - Incentives for employers to institute more remote work opportunities



#### Review regulatory burden

- Temporarily ease regulations that do not make sense
  - Manufacturing overtime
  - Predictive scheduling
  - Training requirements when training can't be done
  - Self service gas
- Moratorium on new rulemakings not critical to addressing the crisis



## What's Next?

- Uncertainty has been hard
- Shelter in place order?
  - Lesson learned from the Bay Area
- Definition of "essential" business
- Treatment of manufacturers



## **Good Communications Are Paramount**

- Regular two-way communications with Oregon businesses
  - Sector-by-sector understanding
  - Special focus on small businesses
- Demonstrate near-term commitment to address immediate issues
  - Begin work on long-term strategy to protect jobs
- Develop best practices for employers



# Thank you!

