



BONES | STRENGTH | BALANCE

June 22, 2020

From: Elise Holcombe, RN, BSN, CEO  
Boost Fitness Company LLC, a franchisee of OsteoStrong  
11211 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Happy Valley, OR 97086

RE: Temporary & Targeted, General Liability Protection for Returning Workers

Dear Madam Governor and Legislators

This testimony is to provide feedback from the perspective of a voter, a business owner and longtime resident of Oregon as you consider COVID related liability protections.

My business opened only one year ago. March 2020 would have been our best month ever.

Given concern for the health of our community and employees, I cheerfully closed our doors, with \$0 revenue, for many weeks at great personal cost. Reserves meant to carry us through September 2020 are now gone, in spite of PPP and EIDL.

Reopening came with a great cost as well. Cleaning costs increased significantly in addition to the extra costs of supplying PPP, signage, air purifiers, thermometers and more. Adding insult to injury, to keep employees and clients "socially distanced" we can only operate at 40% of our normal capacity. I may need to hire a cleaning attendant. It's going to be extremely difficult to achieve the growth needed to survive long term.

Survival, although difficult, does not seem impossible, yet. However, it seems like the Oregon Lawmakers are not taking the health and welfare of small business seriously. If businesses don't get targeted liability protections, this could well be the straw that breaks the camel's back for many of them.

Can small businesses afford additional insurance or claim costs right now? No, absolutely not.

Without these protections, all businesses become a target for people who want to use their sickness to their advantage. This create huge and unnecessary losses for business, jobs and the long-term economy in Oregon.

I urge you to put yourself in the shoes of a small business owner as you deliberate. Please show us you support us by protecting us and not throwing us to the wolves.

Respectfully

Elise