

To: Oregon Legislature

From: Laura Devine and Evan Supanich, Owners, Vive Fitness

Re: Reclassification of personal fitness training as a “Personal Service” and Relief funding for all businesses impacted by 11/18/2020 closures and outside operation mandates

We are hopeful that this special session will provide relief funding for ALL businesses mandated to close on 11/18 and subsequently operate outside, not just restaurants through the LC Restaurant Support Package. Additionally, we would like personal training to be recategorized as a “Personal Service”.

We own Vive Fitness, a personal training studio located in the Hollywood District, NE Portland. We are home to 10 (down from 15 in March) independent trainers who operate their businesses out of our studio. We have worked diligently to keep our space safe and compliant with OHA & CDC guidelines. We take the safety of our community very seriously, and we believe that we are able to operate at reduced capacity in a very low risk way.

Data from studies has shown what does and does not significantly contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Businesses with higher risk of transmission that do not yield public health benefit (no one can argue that exercise is good for someone) are currently allowed to operate. While ours remains forced to operate outside, accruing debt and losing business each day. We are hopeful that the special legislative session on Monday will yield some sort of relief for those of us who don't fall in the restaurant/ food cart category but were also forced to close on 11/18. We feel that we as small training studios have fallen through the cracks. **Please reclassify personal training as a “Personal Service” for small businesses that are able to comply with the OHA guidelines that already exist and keep similarly modeled businesses at least able to pay rent and expenses without incurring major debt and loss of business each month. We feel strongly that we should not be left out of aid specific to businesses with mandated closures.**

It's critical that here in Oregon decision makers look to real data and science to back up the devastating business closures and unsustainable restrictions for operating outside.

Please look at the available science. Closing businesses like ours and other small fitness studios will be the end for many small businesses. Operating outside is not a reasonable solution for our rainy winter months. Our fellow fitness studio owners at Hyatt Training shared the studies below.

Here's a link to the contact tracing data released from Governor Cuomo in New York. Based on this data he re-opened gyms effective 12/14 with limited capacity and strict COVID protocols in place. (<https://www.wivb.com/news/new-york/watch-governor-cuomo-set-to-make-an-announcement-at-1130-a-m-3/>)

And here's a link out of the U of O consulting group demonstrating that health clubs do not pose the same risk as venues like bars and restaurants. An analysis of Colorado data shows no statistically significant link between fitness club attendance and COVID-19 cases. (<https://www.ihrsa.org/improve-your-club/industry-news/university-research-gyms-are-low-risk-for-covid-transmission/>)

Oregon officials have not given data to support closing gyms or indicating increased infections because of gym attendance prior to closure on 11/18.

COVID is an overwhelming problem, but you can help mitigate the ongoing damage to small businesses and the local economy by not excluding personal training from relief funding and by recognizing small studios as something very different from big box gyms. We are incurring debt each month to maintain our lease for a problem that science shows our business operations - 1:1 personal training - simply do not contribute to.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Laura Devine and Evan Supanich, Vive Fitness

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**VIVE FITNESS**

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