

Dear Co-Chairs Kotek and Courtney:

My name is Kathleen Bernards, president of Bernards & Associates, CPAs, PC in McMinnville. My CPA firm has more than 200 small business and nonprofit clients in Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington counties. On behalf of those clients and my own business that employs 7 other people, I support an amendment to HB 4212 that would provide temporary and targeted liability protections to entities that are following state and federal public health guidelines and rules to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure. I am worried that even when businesses like mine follow state and federal public health and safety guidelines, we are still at risk of lawsuit from a customer or employee saying that we didn't go far enough. We need temporary and targeted liability relief so that businesses like mine can bring employees and customers back and Oregon's economy can get back on course. Please consider the amendment submitted for consideration and supported by businesses, school boards, local governments and other entities like nonprofits.

This is important to all of us.

Thank you.

*Kathleen L. Bernards*

Bernards & Associates, CPAs, PC  
441 NW Hill Rd. (P.O. Box 1038)  
McMinnville, OR 97128

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