

Dear Senate President Courtney,

At the West Linn Chamber of Commerce, we are receiving calls and having discussions with worried business owners who are following all the reopening guidelines but have employees that are abusing the COVID system. They are resistant to and communication or resolve and voicing lawsuit action instantly. This will be a devastating issue for our businesses if there is not some form of protection in place during these unprecedented times. Please help create an amendment to HB 4212 that will not leave our businesses at unnecessary legal risk. Thank you!

I support an amendment to HB 4212 that would provide temporary and targeted liability protections to entities that are adhering to state and federal public health guidelines and rules to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

Governor Brown's executive orders have flattened the COVID-19 curve, but the changing regulatory environment also has created immense liability and uncertainty for public and private sector employers.

I am worried that even though we are following state and federal public health guidelines, we are still at risk of a lawsuit from a customer or employee saying that we didn't go far enough. One of these lawsuits would cripple my business. It's already tough to keep my doors open in these challenging economic times.

The ask is simple: please amend HB 4212 to include the language: "A person or entity acting in good faith shall not be subject to civil damages resulting from acts or omissions that complied with an executive order or regulation or were in accordance with guidance regarding COVID-19, unless the damages result from the person or entity's gross negligence or from the person or entity's reckless, wanton or intentional misconduct. This section applies to all causes of action that accrue during the complete duration of the COVID-19 emergency declaration, EO 20-03 issued March 9, 2020."

Please don't leave me exposed to unnecessary legal risk!

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue to those of us that are trying to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

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