



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 24, 2020

Speaker Kotek, Senator Courtney and Colleagues:

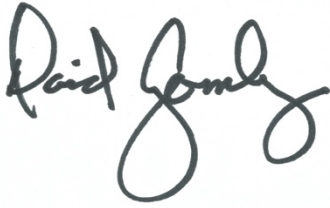
As we begin the first special session of 2020, we want to express our disappointment over the lack of any legislation addressing the serious liability concerns that have been raised by health care providers, local governments, schools, non-profits and businesses who fear the lawsuits they might face over the COVID-19 pandemic. We once again urge you to consider an amendment to the COVID-19 response omnibus vehicle that includes limited general liability protection for these entities.

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens not only the health of Oregonians, but the Oregon economy. It spreads silently with devastating consequence. As leaders, our job is to recognize the challenges and threats facing our state and to act to proactively address concerns from our communities. We are hearing from entities across the spectrum that one of their biggest concerns right now is the threat they are facing from COVID-19 lawsuits. We have a responsibility to provide some degree of liability protection for those who are acting under the orders of the Governor and are following the public health guidelines the government has provided.

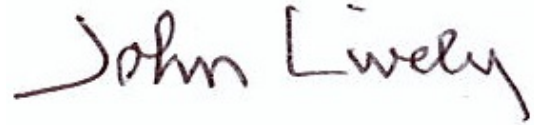
The amendment we are asking for you to consider provides liability protection that is limited in scope and limited to causes of action that occurred during the COVID-19 emergency declaration. It would not affect a person's right to sue or right to a jury trial, but would give those following the guidelines and complying with orders some protection for doing so.

We have heard from cities, counties, healthcare providers, schools, non-profits and businesses in our communities about how important this is. We previously have asked that this topic be considered in this special session and are now urging you to consider adopting an amendment that provides this limited immunity protection.

Thank you,



Representative David Gomberg



Representative John Lively



Representative Caddy McKeown



Representative Tiffiny Mitchell



Representative Margaret Doherty



Representative Courtney Neron



Representative Janelle Bynum



Representative Jeff Barker



Representative Brian Clem



Representative Jeff Reardon

CC: Governor Brown