

**To: Joint Committee on the First Special Session**

**From: Sandra McDonough**

**Date: June 25, 2020**

**Re: Testimony in support of the -31 amendment to HB 4212**

President Courtney, Speaker Kotek and members of the committee,

My name is Sandra McDonough. I am president of Oregon Business and Industry. We represent more than 1,600 businesses across Oregon, with well over 300,000 employees.

I am here to ask you to support the -31 amendment to House Bill 4212, which would provide targeted and temporary liability protections for businesses, school districts, local governments and other entities, like nonprofits.

Since this crisis began, I have spoken to hundreds of businesses who dealt with devastating impacts from the Stay Home order. They knew why the order was necessary, and they have done their best to comply in order to protect their fellow Oregonians...their customers, their employees, their families and their neighbors.

Now, as we reopen, the single biggest concern I hear is about the potential for costly and unfair lawsuits that could kill a business struggling to get back on its feet. Businesses that follow CDC and state guidance, that do everything they can to ensure a safe site for employees and customers, should not live in fear of being sued.

The amendment offered today is simple, straight forward and temporary. It provides general liability protections to businesses, school districts, local governments and other entities including nonprofits that are working hard to implement safety guidance. This amendment has bipartisan support because legislators are hearing from their constituents that providing liability protection is necessary and it is the right thing to do as we work together to rebuild a thriving economy.

Thank you for your consideration.