

**From:** [Albert Edwards \(aedwards@oregonretina.org\)](mailto:aedwards@oregonretina.org)  
**To:** [JISS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Message to Joint Committee on First Special Session  
**Date:** Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:44:51 AM

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Dear Co-Chairs Kotek and Courtney:

I support the -31 amendment to HB 4212 to 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.

Lawsuits against businesses and employers are a major problem, even without the dramatic risks caused by COVID-19. Here is an article on the COVID-19 risks:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/stopping-a-lawsuit-epidemic-11587683263>

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 adopt the -31 amendment to HB 4212 to provide temporary and targeted liability protection to public and private employers who are following the Governor's public health guidelines and regulations.

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

Sincerely,

**Albert O. Edwards, MD, PhD, MBA**

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