



June 26, 2020

Dear Legislators,

The Fair Shot For All Coalition is a partnership of racial and gender justice organizations and labor unions who came together with a clear recognition that our economy is broken and the status quo simply doesn't work for many of us -- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ communities, women, immigrants and working families. We are deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, who are disproportionately sick and dying during this pandemic. We are also disproportionately impacted by the economic fallout from this pandemic, and will feel the health and economic impacts of this crisis longer. **We ask you to center our communities in your decisions today.**

Housing Stability

BIPOC communities face the most serious threat of eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness in the absence of protections and financial assistance. Due to wealth disparities as a result of historic and systemic discrimination in housing, employment, and other economic opportunities, and barriers to homeownership, BIPOC people are more likely to rent their homes. During the last foreclosure crisis, BIPOC people were more likely to lose their home due to discriminatory lending practices. The Legislature can prevent immediate negative impacts for homeowners and renters by **passing HB 4213 and HB 4204**. Allowing evictions and foreclosures to resume will disproportionately impact communities of color and people with low incomes.

Worker Protections

To prevent long lasting harm to our communities, we need more protections now, not less. Each of us should expect fundamental health and safety protections at work. A **Workers' Compensation presumption** would ensure both the health and safety of workers who contract the Coronavirus at work and insulate employers against any further liability associated with exposure to that worker. Workers' Compensation exists as the exclusive remedy for employees who are sick or injured at work. In contrast, blanket immunity for businesses and employers opens the door for bad practices and unlawful actions against employees. Our health and safety laws should be enforceable without retaliation or loss of employment. This is critical for Black workers who are twice as likely as white workers to have seen possible retaliation by their employer, and twice as likely to have unresolved COVID-related concerns at work according to a national survey¹.

Race and Ethnicity Data Collection and Reporting

Racial and ethnic health disparities and inequities can only be eliminated if there is high-quality information by which to track immediate problems and underlying social determinants, as well as to guide the design and application of culturally specific medical, public health, and economic opportunity approaches. In the midst of COVID-19, not all counties are collecting REaL-D compliant data, and in addition, data is sometimes missing which happens when labs do not receive disaggregated data from the providers who requested testing. One way to ensure quality disaggregated data is to ensure providers are collecting these data during visits with their

¹<https://www.nelp.org/news-releases/black-workers-see-higher-rates-employer-retaliation-raising-covid-workplace-safety-concerns/>

From the office of Majority Leader Smith Warner



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