

To: Oregon Legislature

From: Lee Carson and Jeremy Hyatt, Owners, Hyatt Training

Re: Relief funding for all businesses impacted by 11/18/2020 closures and outside operation mandates

We are hopeful that this special session will provide relief funding for ALL businesses mandated to close on 11/18 and subsequently operate outside, not just restaurants through the LC Restaurant Support Package.

We own Hyatt Training, a 1:1 personal training studio located in NW Portland. We employ 7 personal trainers and another 6 independent trainers run their businesses out of our studio. We have 150 members (down from 250 on March 1). We have eagerly done our part to stem the impacts of COVID-19 and be leaders in our community for the last 10 months.

Science has come a long way these last months with actual data to show what does and does not significantly contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Businesses with higher risk of transmission that do not yield public health benefit (no one can argue that exercise is good for someone) are currently allowed to operate. While ours remains forced to operate outside, accruing debt and losing members each day. We are hopeful that the special legislative session on Monday will yield some sort of relief for those of us who aren't restaurants but were also forced to close on 11/18.

As Rep Keny-Guyer pointed out in her newsletter communication this week about that bill, "The restaurant industry is seeing revenue losses between 40-70% due to temporary closures, reduced indoor seating, and increased staffing and payroll costs to maintain COVID-19 protocols. Outdoor seating is difficult to maintain during Oregon's wet and cold winter season." **Small fitness studios like Hyatt Training face the EXACT SAME CHALLENGES from decreased inside capacity to increased operation costs and the difficulty of operating outside.** We know there are many other small fitness based businesses facing similar financial burdens to those Hyatt Training is facing. And we feel strongly that we should not be left out of aid specific to businesses with mandated closures.

It's critical that here in Oregon decision makers look to real data and science to back up the devastating business closures and unsustainable restrictions for operating outside.

[Here's a link to the contract tracing data released from Governor Cuomo in New York.](#) Based on this data he re-opened gyms effective 12/14 with limited capacity and strict COVID protocols in place. (<https://www.wivb.com/news/new-york/watch-governor-cuomo-set-to-make-an-announcement-at-1130-a-m-3/>)

[And here's a link out of the U of O consulting group](#) demonstrating that health clubs do not pose the same risk as venues like bars and restaurants. An analysis of Colorado data shows no statistically significant link between fitness club attendance and COVID-19 cases. (<https://www.ihrsa.org/improve-your-club/industry-news/university-research-gyms-are-low-risk-for-covid-transmission/>)

No data has been brought forth by Oregon officials pointing to the reasoning for closing gyms or indicating increased infections because of gym attendance prior to closure on 11/18.

COVID is an overwhelming and enormous problem. We have done our part from the beginning to be part of the solutions. But today we are incurring thousands of dollars of debt each month to maintain our lease for a problem that science shows our business operations - 1:1 personal training - simply do not contribute to.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Carson and Jeremy Hyatt

Owners, Hyatt Training

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Check out our private reserved workout areas and learn [what we're doing to keep members healthy and safe during COVID-19](#)