

Legislatures of Oregon,

Please pass HB3177. We need relief and evidence that this will never happen to us again in this state. My husband and I have worked additional jobs for years to grow our family catering business. We now have made this our sole source of income for the last 12 years, so when these restrictions hit, both of our incomes were gone. We grew our business by word of mouth and honest business practices and attention to service. Before the Covid lockdowns we had so much demand for our services that we had to turn people away. It has been devastating to watch something you have poured your life's work into diminish to almost nothing. The bills however do not diminish. I paid huge auto insurance and liability insurance costs last year on March 5th. I also paid the liquor license fee that had gone up astronomically last year right before the first lockdown. All those payments are due again, and have been put to use less than 20% of 2019. That also does not account for all the food spoilage we endured because of starts and stops and not being able to use all the product ordered and no way to recoup the lost costs for this. Another loss we have endured is the starts and stops that I know have impacted many of my fellow food service businesses are the time and money spent working with clients to plan, then re-plan their event only to have them just cancel the event. We have spent countless dollars on gloves, masks and plexi-glass just to name a few more items.

The work we do is very hard. It is not a job for everyone. It pains me to see all the fellow businesses that have closed who sacrificed their holidays and weekends to serve the public, and now they are just gone and never even got to be thanked for all their hard work. This has been a horrible scare on our state. We have sacrificed much and as business owners in a service industry such as ours, you cannot just pickup, move and start over from scratch, especially after a year of financial devastation.

We call on our leaders to feel our pain and recognize our sacrifices and contribution to our community. We ask you to pass this bill and work for the people who elected you to represent us.

Respectfully,

Terri Kam a 51 year resident of Oregon