

HB 3177 February 23, 2021  
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Hello,

12 months ago, the need for an actual bill to assure that Oregon Businesses can operate on a fair and standard set of rules that apply across the board in terms of customer access was nowhere on the horizon. Fast forward 12 months and it has become apparent that at least in the eyes of the Governor that not all businesses are equal, or at least have to play by the same rules. I understand and support efforts to curtail and defeat Covid-19, as I am sure most Oregonians do as well. Early on, it was "follow the science", and where there was no past experience to help guide us, government was shooting from the hip, some hitting the target, other times they missed entirely. Now, we have both science and past experiences to help guide us. The actual science finds that health clubs, for the majority, are very safe, their policies and procedures are higher than most other "essential" businesses such as Walmart, Safeway and Home Depot. As far as contact tracing, we know who is in the club, when they arrived and left, who else was in the club when they were there and what their temperature was when they came in. No other industry, with the exception possibly of hospitals, have standards and policies as high as ours. Across the country, the health club industry has been devastated by closures with almost 20% or 8-9000 clubs closing permanently. This is an incredible hit to both the national and local Oregon economy.

Many club members have been hunkered down and their personal health has suffered. Please note that 12-18 months from now there will be a marked increase in heart disease, diabetes and other preventable diseases due to inactivity caused by this prolonged closure. Please support HB 3177 to help Oregonians reclaim their health and fitness and provide an even playing field when it comes to which business can be open and others that cannot.

Thanks for the opportunity to give input.

Neal Simpson  
Executive Director, FitLife Club Network