

Submitter: Elliot Rasenick

On Behalf Of: Beloved Presents LLC

Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Measure: HB4040

We're grateful to have an opportunity testify about some of the challenges we've faced. While so many have struggled over these past several years, those of us involved in live events, especially those of us in live events who take seriously our responsibility to be careful about our impact on the health of our communities, may have some of the biggest challenges getting back open.

We have always taken care to produce events that genuinely serve our community and thus our events take a long time to plan. We typically begin working on a new event 9-18 months in advance. Because of the lead time required for us as well as the intersecting threats of new variants, of massively increased expenses, and of increasing uncertainty, re-opening has been impossible. While some of the federal relief funds have enabled us to retain some of our staff and to continue to mount the false starts we have, we will not be able to continue without additional relief. The way forward is finally becoming clear and we hope to be able to stage our first events since 2020 later in the summer of 2022.

Our events have typically provided seasonal work for hundreds of local vendors and temporary employees. We have heard from so much of this community that they are struggling without the work we offer. We have also heard from so many of our attendees that our events have given them hope, meaning, purpose, and connection. Without our events, large communities of artists throughout the state are struggling in many ways.