

# Downtown Athletic Club

February 13, 2023

Dear Senator Prozanski,

My name is Rob Bennett. I am the owner of the Downtown Athletic Club (DAC). We serve over 2,000 local members and have been located downtown Eugene for the past 38 years. Our mission is to help people feel good from the inside out. We accomplish this by not only providing a high-quality facility for exercise, but by giving professional advice and support to those needing help in achieving their fitness goals.

On behalf of the DAC, I am writing in support SB 754. It is very concerning for us that recent court rulings have nullified Oregon liability waivers. Waivers provide essential protection for responsible operators within the fitness industry, both for profit and non-profit, in addition to countless other recreation areas within our society.

Not only does the current situation increase our operating risk for providing a valuable wellness service within our community, it also increases our liability insurance costs at a time when small businesses like ours are struggling to make ends meet in the post-pandemic environment. At the same time, these increase costs are often passed down to the consumer, translating into higher costs for activities enjoyed by Oregonians of all ages. Higher costs for fitness mean less people can afford to participate, increasing the likelihood that elevated obesity rates will continue into the next generation.

It is my understanding that this bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 15. I urge you to support the bill and return Oregon to the same liability standard as every other western state in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob E. Bennett  
Downtown Athletic Club  
Eugene, OR. 97401

