

June 1, 2020

Dear Florida Congressional Delegation:

As leaders of the business community's efforts to relaunch Florida's economy, the undersigned chambers of commerce in Florida urge Congress to pass timely, temporary and targeted liability relief legislation to provide businesses a safe harbor from unwarranted lawsuits. If left unchecked, the building tsunami of COVID-fueled litigation will endanger the fight against the pandemic and undermine the safe and orderly return to work for millions of Americans.

Businesses have innovated to provide much needed supplies during the pandemic, such as distillers producing hand sanitizer or manufacturers switching their operations to produce personal protective equipment. During the stay-at-home order, essential businesses remained open and were the front lines in providing critical services and supplies. Now millions of other businesses are in the process of reopening, desiring to do so in a safe manner that protects their employees and customers.

This is an unprecedented situation and despite employers' best efforts to comply with all the public health guidance, many are concerned that opening their doors only means they will be forced to defend themselves against an onslaught of frivolous lawsuits. Their concern is driven by the fact that each day brings news of more lawsuits that have already been filed. That is why Congress should provide a safe harbor that holds truly bad actors accountable, but that protects those employers who are working to follow public health and safety guidelines as we relaunch our respective state and local economies. Specifically, temporary protections should remain in place for the duration of the pandemic crisis and response that cover:

- Businesses that work to follow government guidelines against COVID-19 exposure claims.
- Healthcare providers and facilities on the front lines of the COVID-19 response.
- Manufacturers that repurposed production and distribution to provide PPE, sanitizers, and other needed equipment and supplies.
- Companies that have donated their stock of supplies to hospitals and medical professionals.

Thank you for your consideration of these lawsuit abuse reforms that will allow American businesses to reopen safely and without the fear of lawsuits when trying to do the right thing in response to COVID-19. Your bipartisan leadership on this issue is needed to ensure Florida emerges from the pandemic as quickly and strongly as possible.

Sincerely,

Florida Chamber of Commerce
Amplify Clearwater
Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce
Bay County Chamber
Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Citrus County Chamber of Commerce
Clay County Chamber of Commerce
Daytona Regional Chamber

Destin Chamber of Commerce
Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Dade City Chamber
Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce
Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce
Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce
Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce
Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce
Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce
Holly Hill Chamber of Commerce
Indian River County Chamber of Commerce
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
JAX Chamber
Key Largo Chamber of Commerce
Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
Lake Eustis Area Chamber of Commerce
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce
Manatee Chamber of Commerce
Melbourne Chamber of Commerce
Miramar Pembroke Pines Regional Chamber of Commerce
Nassau County Chamber of Commerce
Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce
North Port Chamber of Commerce
Ocala Chamber & Economic Partnership
Orlando Economic Partnership
Ormond Beach Chamber
Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce
Plant City Chamber of Commerce
Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Sanibel Captiva Chamber of Commerce
South Dade Chamber of Commerce
South Tampa Chamber of Commerce
Sun City Center Area Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Bay LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Tavares Chamber of Commerce
Uptown Chamber
Venice Area Chamber of Commerce
Walton Area Chamber of Commerce

Weston Florida Chamber of Commerce

Ybor City Chamber of Commerce