

Dear Representative :

I write to ask for your support for legislation providing targeted and temporary safe harbor liability protections from opportunistic lawsuits that seek to take advantage of the COVID-19 emergency. Time is running out to pass legislation this year and it is urgently needed.

For the foreseeable future, businesses across all sectors will be subject to strict workplace health and safety requirements. Those who follow these precautions should proceed with confidence knowing they will not be targeted with frivolous, and potentially devastating, lawsuits from those alleging exposure to COVID-19. Likewise, our healthcare heroes and manufacturers of personal protective equipment face unprecedented challenges and risks. Pennsylvania needs targeted, temporary legislation providing safe harbor from liability for health care, personal protection equipment manufacturers, and businesses as they reopen and restart Pennsylvania's economy. Without this protection, Pennsylvania's economic recovery will be impeded.

I am not seeking to protect those who act in a grossly negligent manner or disregard safety precautions. Providing liability protection for those following government guidelines provides the needed incentive for business and healthcare to follow standards to protect workers and the public.

Across the country, there has been a rise in COVID related lawsuits alleging novel theories of liability, such as public nuisance, and seeking to use class action certification to ensure large fees for the plaintiffs' attorney. In response, 18 states and the District of Columbia have enacted legislation providing targeted and temporary safe harbor from liability. In addition, numerous Democratic and Republican Governors have issued Executive Orders to protect healthcare heroes and businesses struggling to remain solvent during the current economic crisis.

Please provide Pennsylvania with targeted, temporary, and reasonable liability protection to the crisis faced by healthcare, personal protection equipment manufacturers, and businesses. The future of Pennsylvania's economic recovery depends on it.

Sincerely,