



STATE OF TEXAS

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Liability Protections for Texas Employers

Dear Leader McConnell:

As leaders of Texas state government, we appreciate the actions you and your congressional colleagues have taken to swiftly address the immediate needs of Texans in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

As the State of Texas begins to reopen its economy and Congress considers the next phase of federal coronavirus relief legislation, we urge you to support the inclusion of legal protections that would protect business owners, healthcare facilities and employees, and first responders from being held liable for COVID-19 exposure claims when they adhere to relevant public health guidelines and make good faith efforts to limit the risk of exposure and infection. In addition, liability protections would provide ample incentive for business owners and healthcare professionals to adhere to best practices and relevant public health guidelines.

Without liability protections, many business owners and those in healthcare could be subjected to costly lawsuits promulgated by those intent on exploiting this crisis. This kind of frivolous litigation would be financially devastating for any person that is already working overtime to stay afloat. Asking employers to reopen their businesses or provide these necessary healthcare services while leaving them vulnerable to the threat of predatory litigation would be unjust.

Facing record unemployment and an unprecedented financial crisis, we must take immediate and swift action to protect our state's job creators and our healthcare industry from crippling litigation that would certainly delay the full recovery of our economy. Federal action is the swiftest course

to provide liability protections, and we ask for your leadership and support for such measures in the next phase of COVID-19 recovery legislation. Because many Texas businesses and healthcare providers operate in multiple states or have multi-state supply chains, the United States Congress is uniquely positioned to deliver the appropriate nation-wide solution.

The first three phases of the federal government's economic stimulus and relief efforts have been meaningful and robust, and we look forward to working with you to encourage and protect our job creators and healthcare professionals. On behalf of the people of Texas, we extend our utmost gratitude for your capable leadership and appreciate everything you continue to do for our great state in response to this crisis.

Sincerely,



Governor Greg Abbott



Lt. Governor Dan Patrick



Speaker Dennis Bonnen

CC:

The Honorable John
Cornyn
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate

Texas Congressional
Delegation