



Kentucky Chamber
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

June 12, 2020

The Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

The Kentucky Chamber, along with several businesses and organizations, including those representing local governments, respectfully request that you take action with providing temporary and targeted legal relief for businesses and organizations, both public and private, that stepped up to serve Kentucky during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether by delivering life-saving personal protective equipment (PPE), essential and critical goods and services or by reopening as part of Kentucky's economic recovery, businesses and organizations have done their part as citizens during these uncertain times.

The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in many ways. While historical accounts of such viruses shed some light on how to respond, Kentucky's modern economy was shocked by the onset of the illness. However, in response to your request for help, our business community contributed like never before to protect Kentuckians, whether by retooling manufacturing to produce PPE, closing their doors in support of stay at home directives, or keeping their doors open to supply critical and essential goods and services as the virus spread. It's impressive how our businesses and organizations contributed.

As we Restart Kentucky, uncertainty remains, and businesses and organizations must follow new requirements never before implemented. Critical and essential businesses must continue to operate under new conditions, and those forced to close can now reopen but do so under considerable uncertainty. This reopening of our economy is critical to avoid lasting economic and health declines. Still, some businesses remain fearful that despite their compliance with new rules, they could face predatory claims that threaten their recovery. By no means are we asking for blanket immunity. Kentucky businesses and organizations doing everything in their power to keep employees, customers, and all Kentuckians safe must know that if they follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, as well as the Healthy at Work and local health department protocols, they have done the right thing and will be protected. During these times of uncertainty, we ask you to find ways to create some sense of certainty, allowing our businesses to operate with some assurances in place.

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The Chamber and partners listed below urge you to act to protect our recovery. We request that you work with the legislature to ensure emergency protections for businesses and organizations acting in good faith and implementing the Healthy at Work, CDC, and local health department requirements. Kentucky is not alone. States across the U.S. are addressing this concern with legislation and in at least one state through executive order. Providing emergency protections under these extreme circumstances is a critical part of our recovery. Please protect the heroes who protected and served so many.

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc.
Northern Kentucky Chamber
Commerce Lexington
Kentucky League of Cities
Kentucky Society of Public Accountants
Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU)
Kentucky Restaurant Association
Kentucky Distillers Association
Kentucky Retail Federation
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Kentucky Grocers and Convenience Stores Association.
Kentucky Association of Counties
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
Apartment Association of Kentucky
Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute

Cc: The Honorable Robert Stivers, II
The Honorable David Osborne
The Honorable Joni L. Jenkins
The Honorable Morgan McGarvey