



[www.njbia.org/recovery](http://www.njbia.org/recovery)

September 14, 2020

Dear New Jersey Legislator,

As New Jersey continues to weather the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask for your assistance in protecting New Jersey business owners, higher education institutions and other education institutions and non-profit entities. As the state reopens, it is essential that businesses that follow applicable safety standards and guidance are provided a safe harbor from COVID-19 liability lawsuits.

Over the last four months, the Garden State's businesses, higher education community, nonprofits and K-12 education have struggled to stay afloat amid an unprecedented government mandated shutdown. As businesses reopen their doors, their remaining resources have been committed to restoring wages and meeting applicable federal and state health guidelines. Entities who have acted responsibly and in a timely fashion do not deserve to be caught up in meritless lawsuits.

The liability protections sought by the business, nonprofit, and higher education communities create the right balance by shielding only those businesses and institutions that comply with applicable guidelines, while providing no liability protections for "bad actors" who flout standards or fail to provide a safe environment. These liability protections will not in any way impact the right of employees to assert all of their existing legal rights should they be exposed to the virus at work. Moreover, the legislation aligns the incentives for businesses who want to avoid unnecessary lawsuits while simultaneously ensuring a degree of safety in the workplace for employees and customers of the business.

We ask for your support and co-sponsorship of the following legislation:

[S-2634](#) / [A-4440](#), sponsored by Senator Gopal (D11); O'Scanlon (R13) & Assemblymen Houghtaling (D11); Greenwald (D6); Mazzeo (D2) Cosponsors Mukherji (D33); Pinkin (D18); Dancer (R12); Lopez (D19)

[S-2628](#) / [A-4377](#), sponsored by Senator Diegnan and Assembly members Freiman (D16); Lopez (D19); Spearman (D5) Cosponsors Dancer (R12); Reynolds-Jackson (D15); DePhillips (R40); DiMaso (R13); Mukherji (D33); Pinkin (D18); Mazzeo (D2); Stanfield (R8); Peters (R8)

The New Jersey Business Coalition will continue to monitor new cases being filed and keep you updated on issues that may arise. Attached is a document that provides answers to some of the questions you may have or been hearing about this issue. We are happy to answer any other questions or discuss this further. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we seek to restore our economy safely.

If you have any questions, please contact Chrissy Buteas at [cbuteas@njbia.org](mailto:cbuteas@njbia.org) or 908-447-3466 or Ray Cantor at [rcantor@njbia.org](mailto:rcantor@njbia.org) or 609-433-4931.

Respectfully,

African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Inc.

American Camp Association NY/NJ  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in NJ  
New Jersey Camps Government Affairs Project  
American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey  
American Physical Therapy Association of New Jersey  
Bernards Township Regional Chamber of Commerce  
BioNJ  
Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Bus Association of New Jersey  
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce  
Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce  
Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia  
Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey  
Chemistry Council of NJ  
New Jersey Chemistry Council  
CLB NJ  
Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey  
CrossState Credit Union Association  
Downtown New Jersey  
Early Childhood Education Advocates  
Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce  
Employers Association of NJ  
Fuel Merchants Associates of NJ  
Garden State Initiative  
Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc  
Global Business Alliance  
Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce  
Health Care Association of NJ  
Healthcare Institute of NJ  
Hoboken Chamber of Commerce  
Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey  
Home Health Services Association of New Jersey  
Hudson County Chamber of Commerce  
Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce  
Insurance Council of New Jersey  
International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association  
Jersey Shore Partnership  
Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Marine Trades Association of New Jersey

Medical Society of New Jersey  
Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Meadowlands Chamber  
Monmouth Ocean Development Council  
Morris County Chamber of Commerce  
NAIOP-NJ  
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)  
New Jersey Apartment Association  
New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association  
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies  
New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities  
New Jersey Bankers Association  
New Jersey Builders Association  
New Jersey Business & Industry Association  
New Jersey Campground Owners and Outdoor Lodging Association  
New Jersey Civil Justice Institute  
New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers  
New Jersey Concrete and Aggregate Association  
New Jersey Council of County Colleges  
New Jersey Dental Association  
New Jersey Food Council  
New Jersey Gasoline-Convenience-Automotive Association  
New Jersey Hospital Association  
New Jersey Hotel and Lodging Industry Association  
New Jersey Independent Electrical Contractors Association  
New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc.  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
New Jersey Pharmacists Association  
New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society  
New Jersey Realtors  
New Jersey Restaurant & Hospitality Association  
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association  
New Jersey Salon and Spa Coalition  
New Jersey Self Insurers Association  
New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants  
NJ Society of Optometric Physicians (NJSOP)  
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association  
New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce  
New Jersey Tourism Industry Association  
New Jersey Utilities Association

New Jersey Warehousemen & Movers Association  
New Jersey Utilities Association  
New York Shipping Association, Inc.  
North Jersey Jewish Business Alliance  
Ocean City Chamber of Commerce  
Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Professional Insurance Agents of New Jersey (PIANJ)  
Recreational Fishing Alliance  
Salem County Chamber of Commerce  
Somerset County Business Partnership  
Southern NJ Development Council  
Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce  
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ  
Sussex County Chamber of Commerce  
The New Jersey Leadership Council of the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations  
The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA)  
The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance  
The United Boatmen of N.J.  
Union Township Chamber of Commerce  
United Way of Northern New Jersey  
Washington Borough BID