



www.njbia.org/recovery

Sept. 22, 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 and nonprofits 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); and Assembly members Houghtaling (D11); Greenwald (D6); Mazzeo (D2). Cosponsored by Senator O'Scanlon (R13) and Assembly members Mukherji (D33); Pinkin (D18); Dancer (R12); Lopez (D19); Stanfield (R8); DiMaso (R13); Scharfenberger (R13); DePhillips (R40).

[S-2628](#) / [A-4377](#) - sponsored by Senator Diegnan and Assembly members Bucco (R25), Freiman (D16); Lopez (D19); Spearman (D5). Cosponsored by Assembly members Dancer (R12); Reynolds-Jackson (D15); DePhillips (R40); DiMaso (R13); Mukherji (D33); Pinkin (D18); Mazzeo (D2); Stanfield (R8); Peters (R8); Johnson (D37).

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 or 908-447-3466 or Ray Cantor at 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 Asphalt Pavement Association
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies
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 YMCA State Alliance
The United Boatmen of N.J.
Union Township Chamber of Commerce
United Way of Northern New Jersey
Washington Borough BID