

September 9, 2020

Wisconsin State Legislature:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues in its fifth month, the threat of predatory lawsuits alleging liability for COVID-19 exposures is a major concern of businesses and many other entities, even if the property owner “did everything right” by complying with public health orders and taking all necessary precautions. We appreciate the work that the Legislature and Governor Evers have already done to protect healthcare workers and those businesses that donate personal protective equipment. However, as Wisconsin communities try to return to normal, Wisconsin businesses, non-profits, schools, and homeowners need protections, provided they take adequate precautions to keep their premises safe.

The undersigned organizations encourage all legislators to co-sponsor and support LRB-6434/2 circulated by Senator Kapenga, Representative Born, and Representative Knodl on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The legislation would create a safe harbor for all property owners/occupants who are good actors against frivolous lawsuits alleging a plaintiff was infected with COVID-19 at a specific premises. *The bill is not business community specific and would protect homeowners, non-profits, schools, universities, and any other premises including outdoor events and festivals.* The safe harbor would not protect bad actors. An entity would lose the liability exemption if they knowingly violated a public health order or spread COVID-19 by acting in a reckless, wanton, or intentional manner.

The Legislature needs to act quickly to protect businesses, non-profits, and individuals doing the right thing. The deadline to co-sponsor the bill is Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

The below signed business associations and chambers of commerce respectfully urge you to co-sponsor and support LRB-6434/2, which will help rebuild Wisconsin’s communities and economy.

Sincerely,

**Trade Associations**

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce  
National Federation of Independent Businesses – Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Civil Justice Council  
Wisconsin Association of School Boards  
Wisconsin Builders Association  
Wisconsin Restaurant Association  
Midwest Food Products Association  
Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association  
Wisconsin Independent Businesses  
Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Insurance Alliance  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wisconsin Grocers Association  
Plumbing Mechanical and Sheet Metal Contractors' Alliance  
Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau  
American Property and Casualty Insurance Association  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation  
Commercial Association of Realtors Wisconsin  
Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association  
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association  
Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association  
Dairy Business Association  
Tool, Die & Machining Association of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Bankers Association  
*WEST*consin Credit Union  
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association  
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association  
Wisconsin Soybean Association  
Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association  
Wisconsin Cattlemen Association  
Venture Dairy Cooperative  
Wisconsin Railroad Association  
Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
Wisconsin Beer Distributors Association  
Wisconsin Institute of CPAs  
Wisconsin Credit Union League  
Wisconsin Society of Architects  
Wisconsin Association of Professional Agricultural Consultants  
Alliance of Wisconsin Retailers  
Wisconsin Dairy Alliance  
Wisconsin Property Taxpayers Inc.  
Cherry Tree Dental  
Independent Insurance Agents of Wisconsin

### **Chambers of Commerce**

Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce  
Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce  
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce  
Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce  
Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce

Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce  
Waukesha County Business Alliance  
Beaver Dam Area Chamber of Commerce  
Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce  
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
Menomonie Area Chamber & Visitor Center  
Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Marshfield Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Stoughton Chamber of Commerce  
Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Portage County Business Council  
Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce  
Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce  
Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce  
Whitewater Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism  
Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce  
South Suburban Chamber of Commerce  
Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau  
Muskego Chamber of Commerce