

OSHKOSH

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

September 11, 2020

State Senator Dan Feyen
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Re: Wisconsin Main Street businesses need your help; please co-sponsor LRB-6434

Dear Senator Feyen: 

Earlier this year, businesses across Wisconsin voluntarily shut down to help address the public health crisis presented by COVID-19. Some of these businesses never opened back up, and many others are struggling to stay open. While Wisconsin's economy is reopening, the road to recovery will not be easy.

For many local businesses and other main street institutions like non-profits, schools, and universities, a major concern is whether they are vulnerable to lawsuits for COVID-19 outbreaks beyond their control or otherwise for which they are not responsible. Businesses working to bring back family-supporting jobs and serve their customers during these unprecedented times shouldn't be at risk of potentially bankruptcy causing litigation. Simply put, businesses, schools, and universities need liability protection for outbreaks they did not cause.

On behalf of our members, I encourage you to co-sponsor and support LRB-6434/2 circulated by Senator Kapenga, Representative Born, and Representative Knodl on September 1st, 2020. The bill 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 protection if they knowingly violated a public health order or spread COVID-19 by acting in a reckless, wanton, or intentional manner.

I respectfully urge you to co-sponsor and support LRB-6434/2.

Sincerely,


John A. Casper
President & CEO

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