

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McCarthy:

As America continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and more states reopen their economies, it is vital that businesses and their employees take the necessary steps to keep their customers and workers safe. Without that sense of confidence, our economic recovery will be slow and too many Americans will remain out of work. With that in mind, we urge you to include language in upcoming legislation that would direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a reasonable emergency temporary standard (ETS) to safeguard workers during this public health emergency.

From our frontline health care personnel to people stocking the grocery store shelves to truck drivers, America's essential workers have stepped up to help our country through this challenging period. Now, as more parts of the economy are reemerging, businesses and their employees are looking for guidance on how to re-open safely.

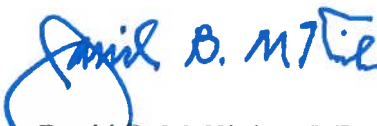
Currently, most employers and their workers are relying on a patchwork of guidance from the CDC and state and local authorities to determine the safety precautions they should take. While OSHA has issued industry-specific guidance for various sectors, the guidance is suggested and not enforceable. Issuing an emergency standard would protect the health and safety of millions of Americans and reduce the size of a "second wave" of infections as the economy re-opens.

While protecting the safety of workers is our foremost priority, we also should be focused on reducing uncertainty for employers. We have heard from large and small businesses concerned about potential liability if their customers or employees are infected. Offering protections against frivolous lawsuits will give businesses peace of mind and help the economy rebound.

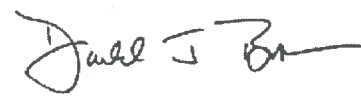
Instituting reasonable OSHA standards could help achieve this goal. Simply put, if businesses abide by the OSHA standards they should be protected from baseless lawsuits.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your efforts to protect American families and ensure a robust economic recovery.

Sincerely,


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


Donald J. Bacon
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



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