

I oppose this bill because it is arbitrary and too specific to be useful to deal effectively with public health issues related to the spread of COVID.

Why only restaurants and gyms? Clearly the sponsors only spoke with some of the businesses affected by the restrictions of the pandemic.

I too am tired of this pandemic and the safety restrictions but it is not over and legislation cannot make it be over or make it safe to eat in restaurants or work out in gyms.

There is no scientific basis to this bill. Rather than require specific businesses should be open it should require consideration of the likelihood of transmission of the virus or viruses as we continue to see mutations. Certain bench marks could be set and specific conditions outlined for safety precautions. There has already been too much confusion and misinformation about how to protect oneself from the virus. Now is the time to set and stick with specific science based precautionary measures. If in fact we find no transmission while people are eating, drinking, laughing and talking loudly with friends in enclosed spaces with strangers, then open restaurants. I expect what we will find if studied is distance, duration and quality of ventilation as well as health of the staff at these establishments are what make the difference.

There will be other COVIDs to come and we should not set an arbitrary, non-science based, criteria for which businesses can be open.

I have friends in Spain. Their restaurants are open because they slowed the spread of the virus by requiring that everyone stay in their own home town. I have friends in Vietnam. Their restaurants are open because they closed their country, isolated, and wore masks until their incident rate was effectively zero. Let's try some tested strategies to curb the spread of this virus (still higher than at the start of shut downs) rather than support legislation that was proposed clearly because we are tired of sacrificing for our neighbors. I'd rather see science based restrictions and subsidies to hard hit businesses and their employees that see you pass HB 3177.