

To whom it may concern;

Be it known that I wholly support HB3177

As a citizen of the State who has volunteered countless hours in the past 10 years on Economic Development, I feel strongly that business entities, especially small and micro enterprises, are not being heard. While we have a number of economic development professionals participating at the State level, there are few business owners, and few economic development professionals who also currently own or have ever owned and operated a business. This has resulted in a watered down message being heard at the State level and I believe has resulted in a devastating impact on small and micro business owners especially in the hospitality, restaurant, and fitness industries.

Over the past year I having been having an internal battle in my own head over our States Covid response. I see people compare it to pandemics earlier in history, but if you take the longevity brought on by modern medicine out, this virus probably wouldn't have even been noticed. The average victim of the Spanish flu was just 28 years old (1/2 of the average life expectancy at that point in time). Covid is taking out the weak, not the average citizen. From a pragmatic standpoint the law of diminishing returns weighs heavy here, we are without question burdening the general public to perhaps give a few more years to people already nearing mortality. From a purely moral standpoint we should do all we can do to prevent Covid from infecting the weak. The question will always remain (in my mind) did we take the right path, or should we have focused on helping the weak (that wish to) stay secluded from the average citizen. I believe this is the biggest error our society has made in our lifetime. There is no balance here, we've sacrificed our economy, children's education, and affected the freedom of our entire society to benefit those in the at risk category (of which I am one) when we could have put resources into helping the at risk people stay comfortably secluded and kept life pretty much normal for everyone else.

It makes no sense to continue down a path we now know is marginally effective. Lets look at the science and correct our path so that we can reduce the economic impact happening across our State. While it may have made sense in the beginning to close down businesses in an attempt to reduce the impact of a virus we knew little about, continued business closures when we now know how to save those in the high risk category AND allow our economy to begin the healing process is bad policy.

Please enact HB3177 and pivot policy toward getting the tools and resources needed to those in the "at-risk" demographic to keep them safe.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Tim Allen