

Passing this bill is necessary for the survival of the service industry. My husband has been working in the service industry for over a decade, many of our friends and family have been as well. The stress and uncertainty that the shut downs have brought to our lives has been extreme. Not knowing whether or when my husband will have a job to go back to has been a very scary reality for us and I'm sure it has been for thousands and thousands of service industry workers all over the state of Oregon. They have had to endure two shut downs, and a myriad of evolving and changing rules, jumping through hoop after hoop and spending thousands of dollars on safety equipment/barriers/outdoor seating. Of course, all of this has been happening under the back drop of large businesses being open, with next to no regulations, people standing shoulder to shoulder in grocery stores, home improvement stores, etc.

This bill will restore equity to an industry that has bent over backwards to stay afloat. It also restores stability to a sector of business that has had to endure so much uncertainty. The time for passing this bill is also completely appropriate given the status of the vaccine distribution, and reassurance from the federal government that it will have enough supply to vaccinate most, if not all Americans very very soon. There are so many bars and restaurants that have not made it through one shut down, let alone two. Please help ensure that there is not a third so that the service industry can go back to relying on their jobs.