

To Whom it may concern

I am writing this letter as a small business owner of Beaverton Workout Anytime gym in Beaverton Or. I bought the gym in Jan of 2020 and then had to close for two and a half months. We were then able to reopen for about two months only to be closed again for more than two months. This second closure was only supposed to be a two-week closure.

I learned very quickly even before Covid that Oregon and Governor Brown were not friendly to small businesses. Then when Covid hit it became apparent that it was fine to be shoulder to shoulder at Costco for example but gyms were closed. As a gym owner I can make an argument we are cleaner and healthier than many places I went to during the restrictions. I also believe an argument can be made that lockdowns do not either.

All we heard was “follow the science!” It seems up to now that the Governor and the people around her either cant recognize the science or are just plain ignoring it. There is no science to back up keeping the gyms closed like Oregon did. I also believe that the Oregon and the Governor mis led people into believing that gyms were spreaders.

Simply looking at obesity, diabetes and mental health risks I can also make an argument that gyms are instrumental in combatting the negative affects these three potentially deadly diseases can bring about. Obesity, Diabetes and mental health are contributors to complications when it comes to Covid.

If it wasn't for the Landlord working with me, I would no longer have a gym. While I am grateful about the landlord in my case, I still owe a lot of back rent and have spent moneys on all kinds of fixes so we could open back up. For example, more ppe and contractors to separate the gym with plastic walls.

Of course, as a businessman I want to be open but I have story after story of people begging me to open back up. People telling me how they do need it for their mental health as well as physical health to get some movement in during the week. I got into the health and fitness industry to help people improve their lives. To be healthier. The Governor and Oregon took that away for a time for no reason.

All we are asking is what the government told us to do in the first place and follow the science. We have had over 19,000 check ins between closures without 1 covid event. I don't believe gym owners and even restaurants are asking for anything special just fair treatment, not just random lockdowns for no reason.

Jason Lobaugh