

August 4, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

We write on behalf of 208 organizations from 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and 64 national organizations, all fighting to protect the health and lives of working people during the COVID-19 pandemic to express our deep concern about the Senate Republican corporate immunity bill.

In April, one month into the pandemic, corporate lobbyists from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Legislative Exchange Council began a concerted national campaign to get both Congress and state governments to grant corporations legal immunity from accountability for their workers' and consumers' health and safety. Between May and early July, corporate immunity bills or executive orders were enacted in 10 states: Utah, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Alabama, Louisiana, Wyoming, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

Legislators in those states were warned that these bills would exacerbate the health and safety crisis facing essential and frontline workers, but they did not listen. And since early June, all of those states have witnessed surging COVID-19 case numbers and deaths. Many of the outbreaks in these states have been linked to unsafe working conditions, including in meatpacking and food processing plants, agriculture, and warehouses.

The Senate Republican corporate immunity bill would replicate this dynamic at a national level, leading to unsafe working conditions because employers would be incentivized to cut costs on safety measures they might otherwise take if the threat of legal action remained. It would be an outright disaster for Congress to encourage such behavior. If the Senate Republican proposal is enacted, there will be a race to the bottom in workplace health and safety, as even law-abiding employers will be disincentivized from implementing proper health and safety protections—endangering working people, their families, and their communities.

The Senate Republican corporate immunity bill would also let employers off the hook for 'pandemic-related' violations of minimum wage and overtime laws, discrimination laws, paid leave laws, and more. But a global pandemic is no excuse for employers to flout long-standing workplace protections.

Granting employers immunity from liability for COVID-related claims would especially endanger Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other workers of color and women who make up a large share of workers in essential and in-person reopening jobs—even as communities of color have been the most vulnerable to coronavirus infection and death.

We therefore urge you to immediately drop consideration of the Senate Republican corporate immunity bill, and of any other legislation that grants businesses such immunity.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Organizations

**Alabama**

Alabama Arise  
NELA-Alabama  
SPLC Action Fund

**Arizona**

Arizona Center for Economic  
Progress  
Workers' Rights Clinic, James E.  
Rogers College of Law

**Arkansas**

Arkansas Advocates for Children  
and Families

**California**

350 Silicon Valley  
Alvin Dayoan  
APALA, Alameda County Chapter  
Bet Tzedek Legal Services  
Closing the Women's Wealth Gap  
Consumer Federation of California  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and  
Safety  
California Rural Legal Assistance  
Foundation  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Housing and Economic Rights  
Advocates  
Labor Occupational Health Program  
Legal Aid at Work  
Legal Aid of Marin  
Long Beach Alliance for Clean  
Energy  
Restaurant Opportunities Center of  
Los Angeles  
Restaurant Opportunities Center of  
The Bay  
The Greenlining Institute  
Unite Here Local 30  
Worksafe

**Colorado**

American Constitution Society,  
University of Denver Chapter  
Colorado Fiscal Institute  
SEIU Colorado  
Towards Justice

**Connecticut**

CT Working Families  
SEIU - CT State Council  
United Auto Workers, Region 9A

**Delaware**

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

**District of Columbia**

APALA DC Chapter  
Fund for Community Reparations  
for Autistic People of Color's  
Interdependence, Survival, &  
Empowerment  
Restaurant Opportunities Center of  
DC

**Florida**

Earth Action, Inc.  
Miami Freedom Project  
Opportunity For All Floridians  
SEIU Florida  
The Common Ground Project

**Georgia**

Georgia AFL-CIO  
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

**Idaho**

United Vision for Idaho

**Illinois**

Interfaith Worker Justice  
ROC Chicago  
Shifting Hearts and Minds

**Indiana**

Indiana Institute for Working  
Families  
Women4Change

**Iowa**

Iowa Citizen Action Network  
Iowa Citizens for Community  
Improvement  
Iowa Main Street Alliance  
LULAC Iowa  
SEIU Local 199

**Kansas**

UFCW District Union Local Two

**Kentucky**

Kentucky Center for Economic  
Policy  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center

**Louisiana**

ROC-UNITED-NOLA  
Workplace Justice Project at Loyola  
Law Clinic

**Maine**

Cambodian Community Association  
of Maine  
Maine AFL-CIO  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
Maine Employment Lawyers  
Association  
Maine Labor Group on Health  
Maine Service Employees  
Association  
Maine Small Business Coalition  
Maine Women's Lobby

**Maryland**

APALA Maryland  
Centro de los Derechos del  
Migrante  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity  
of the Good Shepherd, U.S.  
Provinces  
MDC Consulting and Training  
National Advocacy Center of the  
Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
Public Justice Center  
SEIU Local 500

**Massachusetts**

Corporate Accountability  
Harvard Parity Project

**Michigan**

11th District Democrats  
First United Methodist Church of  
Ferndale  
Flint Rising  
Michigan APALA  
Michigan Nurses Association  
Michigan Parity Project

Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan (ROC Michigan)  
SEIU Healthcare Michigan  
SEIU Local 517M  
SEIU Michigan State Council

#### **Minnesota**

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
SEIU MN State Council

#### **Mississippi**

Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights  
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United – Mississippi

#### **Missouri**

SEIU Healthcare Missouri/Kansas  
SEIU MO/KS State Council

#### **Nebraska**

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

#### **Nevada**

Battle Born Progress  
Make It Work Nevada  
Make the Road Nevada  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

#### **New Hampshire**

NH AFL CIO  
Rights & Democracy - NH  
University of New Hampshire School of Law - People's Parity Project

#### **New Jersey**

HPAE, Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT/ AFL-CIO  
National Workrights Institute  
New Jersey Citizen Action  
New Jersey Policy Perspective

#### **New Mexico**

Native Women Lead  
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty  
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center

#### **New York**

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Citizen Action of New York  
Communications Workers of America, District 1  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
ECE On The Move  
Justice in Motion  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Legal Services Staff Association, NOLSW/UAW 2320  
Make the Road New York  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Employment Lawyers Association/New York  
New York Communities for Change  
New York Taxi Workers Alliance  
Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson  
NY NJ Regional Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU  
Occupational Health Clinical Center, Syracuse  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU)  
ROC-NY  
SEIU32BJ  
The Legal Aid Society  
United University Professions  
We All Rise  
Western New York Council on Occupational Safety And Health  
Worker Justice Center of New York  
Workers Center of Central New York

#### **North Carolina**

Equality North Carolina  
NC-NELA  
North Carolina Justice Center  
ROC City Of Oaks

#### **Ohio**

Move to Amend Ohio Network  
Ohio Citizen Action

#### **Oregon**

350PDX  
Disability Rights Oregon  
Northwest Workers' Justice Project  
Oregon AFL-CIO  
SEIU Oregon  
UFCW Local 555

#### **Pennsylvania**

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) Pittsburgh Chapter  
Philly CLUW  
Pittsburgh United  
The Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania  
Women's Law Project

#### **Puerto Rico**

Taller Salud

#### **Rhode Island**

Direct Action for Rights and Equality  
The Rhode Island Center for Justice

#### **South Carolina**

Women's Rights and Empowerment Network

#### **Tennessee**

Restaurant Opportunities Centers-Music City  
SEIU Tennessee State Council  
Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council  
Tennessee Citizen Action

#### **Texas**

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance ( APALA )  
Border Workers United  
Equal Justice Center  
Every Texan  
Proyecto Azteca, Inc.  
Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network  
Tarrant County Central Labor Council AFL-CIO  
Texas Progressive Action Network  
Texas Watch  
Workers Defense Action Fund

**Vermont**

Rights &amp; Democracy - VT

**Virginia**

Virginia AFL-CIO

Virginia Poverty Law Center

**Washington**

350 Seattle

AFT Washington

Asian Pacific American Labor

Alliance, AFL-CIO, Seattle chapter

Casa Latina

Clark County Volunteer Attorney  
Program

Fix Democracy First

Inlandboatmen's Union of the  
Pacific - Marine Division of the ILWU

Our Revolution Washington

PROTEC17 - Professional &amp;

Technical Employees, Local 17

QLaw Foundation of Washington

Seattle University School of Law

Labor &amp; Employment Law

Association

SEIU 775

SEIU 925

SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

SEIU6 Property Services NW

Teamsters 117

Unemployment Law Project

Washington Community Action

Network

Washington Defender Association

Washington Federation of State

Employees/AFSCME Council 28

Washington Progressive Party

Washington State Alliance for

Retired Americans

Washington State Council of County  
and City Employees/AFSCME

Council 2

Washington State Labor Council,  
AFL-CIOWorking Washington/Fair Work  
Center**West Virginia**National Association of Social  
Workers West Virginia Chapter

Our Future WV

Rise Up WV

West Virginia Center on Budget and  
Policy

WV Center on Budget and Policy

WV Citizen Action Group

**Wisconsin**

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Kids Forward

Milwaukee Area Service &amp;

Hospitality Workers Organization

SEIU Healthcare Wisconsin

SEIU Wisconsin State Council

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

**National**

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas

Alliance for Justice

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Association for Justice

American Association of University

Women (AAUW)

Americans for Democratic Action  
(ADA)

Asian Pacific American Labor

Alliance, AFL-CIO

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Center for American Progress

Center for Constitutional Rights

Center for Justice &amp; Democracy

Center for Law and Social Policy

(CLASP)

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Coalition on Human Needs

Communications Workers of

America (CWA)

Consumer Federation of America

Consumers for Auto Reliability and

Safety

Demos

Earthjustice

Economic Policy Institute

Equal Rights Advocates

Food Chain Workers Alliance

Friends of the Earth U.S.

Greenpeace USA

HEAL (Health, Environment,  
Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance

Health Care for America Now

Hispanic Federation

In the Public Interest

International Brotherhood of

Teamsters

Jobs to Move America

Justice in Aging

Legal Momentum: The Women's  
Legal Defense and Education Fund

MomsRising

Move to Amend Coalition

Muslim Public Affairs Council  
(MPAC)National Association of Social  
WorkersNational Council for Occupational  
Safety & Health

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Education Association

National Employment Law Project

National Employment Lawyers  
Association

National Immigration Law Center

National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women &  
Families

National Rural Social Work Caucus

Oxfam America

People's Parity Project

People's Action

Public Advocacy for Kids

Public Citizen

Public Justice

Public Rights Project

Service Employees International  
Union (SEIU)

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

Sierra Club

Tax March

Temp Worker Justice

The Center for Popular Democracy

Union of Concerned Scientists

UNITE HERE

Voices for Progress

Workplace Fairness