



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1035 (Ramos) – As Amended June 25, 2020 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Jackson:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1035, which will provide an exemption to a small business with 25 or fewer employees from liability for an injury or illness to a person due to coronavirus (COVID-19) based on a claim that the person contracted COVID-19 while at that small business, or due to actions of that small business.

California's economic activity has plummeted in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The depth and speed of the decline will rival that of the Great Depression. It is imperative that we act thoughtfully and courageously to recover from this devastating toll by improving business confidence to operate. Increased confidence translates to business investment, which would limit the economic damage caused during the crisis.

Small businesses are the backbone of any economy, and it is vital this segment of our business economy continues to prosper and to grow. They need liability protection to continue serving the public and providing necessary jobs. As indicated in a study by the U.S. Small Businesses Administration, small businesses create two-thirds of net new jobs and drive U.S. innovation and competitiveness. California is home to four million small businesses, and as indicated by ESRI, in San Bernardino County we have approximately 18,714 small businesses operating with 1 to 25 employees.

As the pandemic continues, and economic indicators continue to show a slow recovery it is pertinent our small businesses continue to operate throughout state and not delay reopening due to fear of liability lawsuits.

For the reasons listed above, the County supports AB 1035. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Director, at 909 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chair, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable James Ramos
Members and Consultants, Senate Judiciary Committee
San Bernardino County State Legislative Delegation

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