



**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 248**  
**House Health Committee**  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Steve Millard  
President & CEO

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes and Ranking Member Russo, thank you for the opportunity to share our strong opposition to House Bill 248-11, which would severely weaken employers' ability to enact and enforce health and safety-related protocols within the workplace.

Coming off the heels of a global pandemic, employers are still feeling the impacts of COVID-19 and remain engaged in economic recovery efforts. A large part of these recovery efforts involve developing strategies for returning to in-person activities and how they can best balance business operations and safety. The provisions of this legislation will substantially alter small business owners' capacity and flexibility to make decisions they determine to be in the best interests of their employees and customers. This effectively removes an employer's right to run their business as they see fit, lowers their overall confidence in balancing business operations and safety, and impedes their ability to protect employees and customers. Additionally, the legislation would create new legal concerns for small businesses at a time when we should be looking for ways to ease liability concerns, not create them.

It is our firm belief that as small businesses continue recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that their ability to enact and enforce health and safety-related protocols within the workplace remain intact. Now is not the time to infringe on the rights of small business owners, nor is it the time to create new legal pathways that put small businesses at unnecessary risk. The changes proposed by this legislation send the wrong message and would significantly impair our current public health framework, threaten the stability of our economy and stifle economic recovery efforts.

It is for these reasons that we strongly encourage you to oppose House Bill 248-11 and are happy to follow up on any questions that you may have.

