



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

April 19, 2021

To the Members of the House of Representatives:

This week, the House Judiciary Committee will take up S. 147, the COVID-19 Liability Safe Harbor Act. I ask that the House pass this bill without delay so that I may sign it into law.

South Carolina's small businesses have borne the brunt of the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite much needed federal and state financial assistance, 10% of our state's small businesses have been forced to close permanently. Among those who remain open, 70% of them cite the lack of liability coverage as the greatest threat to their future.

To date, thirty-nine states have adopted some degree of COVID-19 liability protection, including every state in the southeast – Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. It's time for South Carolina to join this list.

South Carolina business owners – including those in the hospitality, tourism, manufacturing, and healthcare sectors – should not be placed at future risk for following the recommended safety protocols which allowed them to operate and employ people during the pandemic.

These business owners are the reason South Carolina's economy continues to thrive. I ask that you stand with them and pass the COVID-19 Liability Safe Harbor Act.

Your very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Henry McMaster'.

Henry McMaster