

April 30, 2020

Hon. Corey Johnson  
New York City Council  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10038

Speaker Johnson:

As representatives of New York City's employers, large and small, we urge you to re-think the approach to the COVID-19 pandemic that is reflected in Intros. 1918, 1923 and 1926. This legislative package sends a terrible message to the business community, which is doing everything in its power to maintain jobs and to keep the city viable during this crisis.

**All** New Yorkers are experiencing the impact of the pandemic, not just workers identified in this legislation. The vast majority of employers are doing everything possible to protect and support their employees and to continue to serve their customers. The proposed legislation suggests that business owners and employers are willfully failing to meet their responsibilities, which is neither fair nor accurate.

Business owners, managers and workers in essential categories are collectively providing goods and services to keep the city going during the crisis, often at great personal risk and with uncertain prospects for resumption of "normal" business activity in the foreseeable future. For example, catering companies, restaurants, nonprofit organizations and for-hire vehicle and delivery firms have teamed up to ensure the most vulnerable populations have access to food and critical supplies. Large grocery stores are running long hours and already paying bonuses to workers as well as premium wholesale prices in order to meet local demand. Hospitals are suffering lost revenue due to deferring non-COVID-19 procedures, all while incurring added expenses for personnel and critical supplies. These and many other essential businesses simply cannot absorb additional cost and regulatory burdens.

Despite loss of revenues and uncertainty about the future, employers are striving to voluntarily maintain wages and benefits for as many employees as possible. cursory research by the Council would reveal that these businesses cannot remain viable if they must comply with additional mandates. Moreover, larger businesses, especially those that have adjusted to working remotely during the pandemic, will take note of anti-employer actions by the Council when making their decisions about the desirability of continuing to locate in such an unsympathetic environment.

There is certainly a need for New Yorkers to come together to heal our city, protect its most vulnerable residents and workers, and rebuild our economy and tax base. Employers are your allies in these efforts, not the enemy. We ask that the proposed legislation be withdrawn and replaced with a collaborative effort to tackle the enormous challenges before us.

Sincerely,

American Beverage Association  
American Car Rental Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies of New York  
Association for a Better New York  
Bronx Chamber of Commerce  
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce  
Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater New York  
Building Trades Employers' Association  
Construction Safety Advisory Committee of New York  
Energy Coalition of New York  
Food Industry Alliance of New York State, Inc.  
Greater New York Hospital Association  
International Franchise Association  
Internet Association  
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce  
Metropolitan Parking Association  
Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade  
National Restaurant Association  
National Supermarket Association  
National Waste and Recycling Association NYC  
New York Building Congress  
New York City BID Association  
New York City Hospitality Alliance  
New York City Special Riggers Association  
New York State Association of Grocery Stores  
New York State Energy Coalition, Inc.  
New York State Latino Restaurant, Bar & Lounge Association  
New York State Restaurant Association  
Partnership for New York City  
Queens Chamber of Commerce  
Real Estate Board of New York  
Retail Council of New York State  
Staten Island Chamber of Commerce  
Tech:NYC  
Trucking Association of New York  
Yemeni American Merchants Association

CC: Members of the New York City Council  
Mayor de Blasio  
Governor Cuomo