



February 7, 2022

Dear Members of the Arizona Legislature:

We are reaching out to you on behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to advancing free-market policies that stimulate economic growth and prosperity for all Arizonans. Collectively, our organizations represent hundreds of thousands of hardworking Arizonans across multiple industry sectors. We are concerned about the increasing number of bills that seek to undermine the very free-market policies that have made Arizona one of the top states in the nation to do business.

We have always opposed efforts by any level of government to interfere with private business operations, and our position remains consistent. We believe government should make it easier – not harder – to do business in this state, inappropriate regulatory barriers should be eliminated, Arizona’s legal and tort system should discourage frivolous litigation, and our labor environment should be competitive and adaptive to changing workforce needs.

Last session, we were extremely grateful for the Legislature’s hard work in enacting commonsense liability protections that allowed legitimate claims to proceed but protected good actors from events beyond their control. Senate Bill 1377 was a culmination of over a year of work by the Legislature and stakeholders to prevent the abuse of meritless civil litigation against Arizona businesses and ensure protection of our economy. As part of this legislation, lawmakers rightfully recognized the appropriate avenue for employee claims was through Arizona’s sophisticated and long-standing workers’ compensation system.

Under several bills proposed this session, employers will now face “sued-if-you-do, sued-if-you don’t” scenarios. These bills would also undermine the very workers’ compensation systems the Legislature sought to protect last session. As such, we stand in strong opposition to any legislation that would allow private rights of action or tort claims against employers for work-related injuries outside Arizona’s workers’ compensation system, which provides the exclusive remedy for work-related injuries. America is litigious enough. Traditionally, the Arizona Legislature has led the charge against policies expanding

liability and creating new avenues to sue, and we would request you continue to protect the work that the Legislature has done in civil-justice reform.

Arizona employers should have the authority to set terms and conditions of employment. Workplace environments vary significantly, and Arizona should continue to ensure employer autonomy to best serve the needs of their employees and provide innovative business models unique to their operations.

Our organizations appreciate that policymakers have good-faith differences of opinion about vaccine mandates – as do businesses – but targeting employers places them in an untenable position, creates unsound policy, and sets a bad precedent for government overreach into private businesses.

We urge lawmakers to set aside these anti-free-enterprise proposals and instead focus on the pro-growth policies that have made Arizona a top destination to live, work, recreate, and start a business.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Arizona
American Property Casualty Insurance
Association
Arizona Association of Health Plans
Arizona Bankers Association
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Arizona Medical Association
Arizona Mining Association
Arizona Multihousing Association
Arizona Retailers Association
Arizona Rock Products Association
Arizona Small Business Association
Arizona Technology Council
Arizona Trucking Association
Associated General Contractors of America
Arizona Chapter
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Coolidge Chamber of Commerce
East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance
Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce
Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce

Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Eloy Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
Health System Alliance of Arizona
Home Builders Association of Central Arizona
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent
Business (NFIB)
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber
of Commerce
Page Lake Powell Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Southern Arizona Home Builders Association
Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Springerville-Eager Regional Chamber
of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber
United Dairymen of Arizona
West Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance
Buckeye Chamber of Commerce
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce
Yuma County Chamber of Commerce