

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



Tuesday, December 1, 2020

The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: New COVID Restrictions for Private and Non-Profit Gyms and Fitness Facilities

We were surprised and disappointed to learn about the new restrictions that were announced November 15th, that will lead to the closure of hundreds, perhaps thousands of small businesses across Washington State.

While we acknowledge there is an upswing in COVID cases, we are concerned that the closure of private and non-profit gyms and fitness facilities, that serve more than 1.4 million Washington citizens, will lead to more cases of COVID. Due to the winter weather, outdoor exercise is not feasible. People are now forced to take these activities to uncontrolled locations without the protocols and safety measures that these facilities provide for all our citizens.

We believe it makes no sense to penalize a sector that, according to data and studies, has not been a source of COVID-19 infections. The industry has proven it can safely provide a valuable service to the public during the pandemic.

These facilities provide physical therapy services tailored for individuals and deliver injury rehabilitation and recovery programs that all of us need at some point in our lives. In addition, our first responders utilize these businesses as part of their ongoing professional development.

Research has demonstrated that our physical wellbeing directly correlates to our emotional well-being, particularly during times of stress. This is especially important as we navigate the stresses with COVID-19 quarantines, school closures, the aftermath of wildfires, holidays without family members and uncertain economic times.

Shutting down these businesses, who have been active and willing partners in the fight against COVID, is not the way to combat the spread of infections. Indeed, keeping these facilities open will help curtail the spread of COVID by providing a safe location for people to improve their health, physical condition, and emotional wellbeing.

We urge you to quickly reconsider this restriction. Delay in acting will lead to the permanent closure of many of these small businesses, and the loss of jobs at the time when they are needed the most.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Keith W. Goehner

Representative Keith Goehner, 12th District

Carolyn Eslick

Representative Carolyn Eslick, 39th District

Amy Walen

Representative Amy Walen, 48th District

Michelle

Representative Michelle Caldier, 26th District

Robt. J. Sutherland

Representative Robert Sutherland, 39th District

Alex Ybarra

Representative Alex Ybarra, 13th District

Vicki Kraft

Representative Vicki Kraft, 17th District

Jenny Graham

Representative Jenny Graham, 06th District

Skyler Rude

Representative Skyler Rude, 16th District

Drew MacEwen

Representative Drew MacEwen, 35th District

Kelly

Representative Kelly Chambers, 25th District

Larry Hoff

Representative Larry Hoff, 18th District

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Representative Gina Mosbrucker, 14th District

Representative Mike Steele, 12th District

Representative Chris Corry, 14th District

Representative Mike Volz, 06th District

Representative Brad Klippert, 08th District

Representative Mary Dye, 09th District

Representative Brandon Vick, 18th District

Representative Ed Orcutt, 20th District

Representative Jim Walsh, 19th District

Representative Norma Smith, 10th District

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Boehnke", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Representative Matt Boehnke, 08th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Chandler", written in a cursive style.

Representative Bruce Chandler, 15th District