



Chemung County  
Chamber of Commerce



August 10, 2020

The Honorable Thomas Reed  
United States House of Representatives  
2263 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Reed:

On behalf of the members of the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce, we urge you to include assurances for the business community, universities, and school boards across the Southern Tier region that if they follow public health guidelines, they will not be subjected to unwarranted COVID-related lawsuits.

Businesses and non-profit organizations of all types and sizes have adapted and adjusted in incredible ways to continue to safely provide much-needed products, goods, and services, especially our local manufacturers, most of which have been deemed essential throughout this crisis. These businesses have pivoted to keep their employees both safe and working, which has helped to keep our local economy afloat and provided countless individuals the opportunity to continue to provide for their families. As local schools and universities plan to reopen safely, continuing their mission of education and allowing students and parents a return to a much-needed new normalcy, there is growing concern that although they will do their best to follow all applicable state and federal guidelines, they may be forced to defend themselves against an onslaught of lawsuits in the worst-case scenario.

Timely, temporary, and targeted liability protections would safeguard businesses, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions against unfair lawsuits so they can continue to contribute to a safe and effective economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation is critically needed and should be enacted as soon as possible.

Our Southern Tier businesses, non-profit organizations, universities, and local schools represent the backbone of the American economy. On behalf of the business community we serve, we're asking you to include liability protections for these important institutions so we can get people back to work, back to school, and on with their lives.

Sincerely,

Kamala A. Keeley  
President & CEO

400 East Church Street  
Elmira, New York 14901-2803  
Tel: 607.734.5137 Fax: 607.734.4490  
Email: [info@chemungchamber.org](mailto:info@chemungchamber.org)  
Website: [www.ChemungChamber.org](http://www.ChemungChamber.org)