

August 4, 2020

SB4 Testimony- OPPOSITION

For the record, my name is Annette Magnus and I am the Executive Director of Battle Born Progress. We are opposed to SB4. In April, when Gov. Sisolak was being attacked for asking people to stay home, he said he was "putting lives ahead of dollars." Unfortunately the liability piece of this bill today goes back on those words. I want to be very clear. We would fully support this bill if it was only the worker safety piece that supports our brothers and sisters in Culinary.

However, as written we simply cannot support this bill because the issues of worker safety and liability were combined. We are deeply disappointed in Governor Sisolak and his office for including this poison pill when the lives of casino, hotel, school, grocery workers, and more are at serious risk. This should have been two separate bills - plain and simple.

My mother works for CCSD as an office manager who is back at work and my father works at a factory in Las Vegas - this bill will do nothing to protect them and puts their lives further at risk. Their anxiety about working safely during these times should not be heightened by the removal of their ability to hold their employer accountable. Countless workers around Nevada are also in the same situation. We must give workers compensation presumption to people and hold businesses to a higher standard of following safety regulations, in addition to the worker protections included in this bill.

After two weeks of Nevada Democrats blasting Senator McConnell for not helping Nevada with our budget woes, Democrats in the Legislature and Governor Sisolak are now carrying Mitch McConnell's water by proposing a liability measure that is almost identical to the one being presented at the federal level. This bill is a slap in the face for the working families in this state and we will remember who decided to stand with businesses over the people of this state, and we'll be here to remind Nevadans of this vote you take tonight in the future.

This is a matter of life or death and the liability piece of this bill needs to go because it will put thousands of lives at risk. The liability portion of this bill is nothing but corporate welfare and it is completely unacceptable. Vote no.