

PROTECT CHICAGO SMALL BUSINESSES

Dear Members of Chicago's City Council:

Chicago small businesses have faced many challenges over the past several years and encountered numerous obstacles while attempting to recover from the devastating pandemic. Many Chicago communities continue struggling to fill vacant storefronts, attract businesses, and foster economic development. The undersigned organizations asked that City Council refrain from passing the Chicago Paid Leave and Paid Sick and Safe Leave Ordinance without the addition of appropriate safeguards given the immense challenges facing local businesses and communities. We expressed our profound concern that the ordinance will hurt small businesses and cause tremendous harm to communities, especially in disinvested areas.

The ordinance was passed, after Alderman Ervin and Alderman Reilly filed amendments providing a cure period for businesses prior to legal action being brought against them. We are thankful these amendments were filed. However, we are asking that the amendments be expanded and also protect small businesses from crushing penalties when they make mistakes. These penalties may force businesses to close or greatly curtail operations.

We are asking that you work with your colleagues to provide a cure period that not only covers private lawsuits but also the significant penalties that will decimate small businesses. We are asking that a 45-day cure period be adopted so that businesses have ample time to correct any mistakes.

We are also asking for a reasonable grace period before the implementation of this ordinance and the city provides the resources needed to educate small businesses about the mandates set forth in the ordinance. There seems no conceivable way many businesses can comply with this ordinance in approximately one month.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to protect the small businesses that are the backbone of local economies.

Thank you for your consideration.

51st Street Business Association, Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce, Economic Strategies Development Corporation, Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce, Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce, Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce, Institute For Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship, Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce, Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, Little Village Chamber of Commerce, Logan Square Chamber of Commerce, Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, Mount Greenwood Community and Business Association, National Association of Women Business Owners, Chicago Chapter, Portage Park Chamber of Commerce, Quad Communities Development Corporation, Rogers Park Business Alliance, Six Corners Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Advocacy Council, Small Business Majority, South East Chicago Commission, South Shore Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Chamber of Commerce, Washington Park Chamber of Commerce, Woodlawn Chamber of Commerce

PROTECT CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES