

May 29, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
cc: mike.toomey@gov.texas.gov

Dear Governor Abbott,

Thank you for the hard work and dedication of your task force to help Texas reopen during this time of crisis.

We are writing to urgently request that you authorize the reopening of hotel meeting and convention space for all meetings and events, not just weddings and religious services. In this regard, we support the request previously submitted by the Texas Hotel & Lodging Association which would establish the same protocols for meetings and events as established and authorized for weddings. Specifically, the most recent order allows an indoor wedding venue to host a wedding ceremony or reception at up to 25 percent of the total listed capacity of the venue. We believe if retail and cinemas can open safely, meetings and events held in hotels and other event space can do the same. And we would urge a higher percentage capacity be authorized for events that are held outdoors.

Hotels and other event spaces are capable of hosting reduced-capacity meetings and events with all of the current safeguards and suggested protocols. Many if not all of our hotels have executed plans to reopen that adhere to the state's and the CDC's recommendations, and have training and mandatory protocols to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We are confident that hotel meeting and convention spaces are ready to open with safeguards that address the health of our guests and employees as the highest priority.

Without your support to allow hotels to host events, we are afraid that even more of our hotels and our workforce will be in peril and many in our industry will economically be unable to open their doors again. Again, we respectfully request that you re-open our industry's meeting and event space.

Sincerely,

Denise Eisman
President

Austin Hotel & Lodging Association



Julie Faver-Dylla
Executive Director

Hotel Association of Tarrant County



Stephanie Haynes
President

Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Houston



Michelle Madson
Interim President

San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association



Traci Mayer
Executive Director

Hotel Association of North Texas

