



**American
Heart
Association.**

August 31, 2020

Chairman Filler and the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the tremendous work your committee is doing to help bring relief to Michigan during this extraordinary time. The American Heart Association (AHA) supports COVID-19 related liability protection for nonprofits that are complying with state and local guidelines.

As the legislature considers HB 6030 ("*COVID-19 Response and Reopening Liability Assurance Act*") the AHA advocates that liability protection includes:

- nonprofit organizations, including their employees, volunteers, and attendees at their events,
- a nonprofit's own facilities, as well as other venues,
- retroactive to the beginning of COVID-19, and
- extend past the end of the declared public health emergency.

HB 6030 covers all these key points. One consideration is to include a definition for nonprofit in the bill.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on nonprofit organizations like the AHA. The threat of frivolous lawsuits is a real concern, and nonprofits like the AHA who are following and maintaining safety guidelines need protection to safely maintain business. Liability protection should not be extended to shield gross negligence or willful misconduct. Those not operating safely and in compliance with state and local guidelines should still be held accountable.

To continue the lifesaving mission of the AHA and other nonprofits, COVID-19 liability protections are necessary. I appreciate your leadership and the opportunity to provide our recommendations to the committee.

Sincerely,

Bridget Melinn

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To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.