

A way to protect businesses and workers alike

D.C. Democrats want to send more money to state and local governments and the people, while Republicans want liability protection for employers. Employees laid off generally receive unemployment benefits. However, they are lost once work is available. An employee should not have to choose between losing benefits and returning to an unsafe workplace – when COVID-19 can potentially result in death. Applying a gross negligence standard or higher standard of proof is unfair. A possible solution: Without federal involvement, Georgia could set legal standards for employer work that, if followed, will result in freedom from liability and suit. Ohio has issued mandatory and recommended actions for restaurants, bars, hair salons, day spas, nail salons and barbershops. With input from the public (e.g. the Georgia Restaurant Association), legal standards could be set. Employees could be able to create confidential accounts with a state agency, to report violations. Perhaps two or more significant violations could result in loss of liability protection or worse. This matter cannot wait until January.

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