July 21, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy,

Thank you and your members for providing greater resources to states during COVID-19. We are grateful for the partnership from Congress as well as the Trump Administration in supporting the lead role of state governments in responding to the public health emergency as well as recovering from the economic downturn.

As Congress debates a potential phase four bill, we ask that you take action to provide common sense civil liability protections to health care workers, businesses, and schools. When Americans take sensible steps to implement public health best practices, they should have confidence that they will be secure from unreasonable claims. Liability protections must be predictable, timely, targeted, and shield employers from legal risk when following the appropriate standard of care to protect employees, customers, and students. To be clear, liability protections are not a license for gross negligence, misconduct, or recklessness.

To accelerate reopening our economies as quickly and as safely as possible, we must allow citizens to get back to their livelihoods and make a living for their families without the threat of frivolous lawsuits. As public policymakers, it is our duty to provide clarity, consistency, and stability to our citizens and their businesses, and the uniformity that federal law provides is critical to America’s industries that work across state lines.
Again, thank you for your partnership. We hope you will take action to protect employees as well as employers in the workplace, and we look forward to working with you to strengthen our states and our nation and get our economy back up and running.

Sincerely,

Governor Eric Holcomb
State of Indiana

Governor Kay Ivey
State of Alabama

Governor Mike Dunleavy
State of Alaska

Governor Doug Ducey
State of Arizona

Governor Asa Hutchinson
State of Arkansas

Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho

Governor Kim Reynolds
State of Iowa

Governor Larry Hogan
State of Maryland

Governor Tate Reeves
State of Mississippi

Governor Mike Parson
State of Missouri

Governor Pete Ricketts
State of Nebraska

Governor Chris Sununu
State of New Hampshire

Governor Doug Burgum
State of North Dakota

Governor Mike DeWine
State of Ohio

Governor Kevin Stitt
State of Oklahoma

Governor Henry McMaster
State of South Carolina

Governor Bill Lee
State of Tennessee

Governor Greg Abbott
State of Texas

Governor Gary Herbert
State of Utah

Governor Jim Justice
State of West Virginia

Governor Mark Gordon
State of Wyoming