



Legislative Building

Washington State Legislature

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 4002
Olympia, WA 98504

November 25, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee:

As the new statewide restrictions have been implemented, we have heard from citizens who operate or take part in fitness centers and youth and adult sports programs. The new restrictions on these two categories of economic and community activity pose a risk not only to thousands of small businesses across Washington State but also to the health and well-being of Washingtonians.

Recently, the Washington Fitness Alliance (WFA) sent a letter to your office making the case as to why its members should continue to operate during this time. We are contacting you to support that effort. As demonstrated by the WFA, fitness centers and gyms have not been a source of COVID-19 outbreaks in Washington. In fact, according to the Department of Health, the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector as a whole is the source of less than one percent of confirmed cases. Fitness centers have shown that they can check in guests before each visit and that they can limit the number of guests. Because they know exactly who comes and goes, they are able to assist with contact tracing efforts. And because of their larger facilities, fitness centers have the ability to maintain the recommended six-foot distance between guests.

Moreover, we are greatly concerned about the closure of youth and adult sports. Sports play a vital role in the mental and physical health of Washington residents, especially our youth. Many youth sports teams consist of a small self-selected group. Youth sports programs have found innovative ways to operate while implementing effective COVID-19 protocols.

No doubt, we need to do what we can to stop the spread of this virus. At the same time, we need to make sure we are not doing more harm than good to the health of our population. Fitness centers and youth and adult sports have a unique ability to limit participation, maintain distances, and follow CDC guidelines to limit the spread. We ask that you amend the new statewide restrictions to allow fitness centers and gyms, as well as youth and adult sports, to resume.

Sincerely,

Senator Hans Zeiger
25th District

Senator Brad Hawkins
12th District

Senator Randi Becker
2nd District



Senator Shelly Short
7th District



Senator Keith Wagoner
39th District



Senator Judy Warnick
13th District



Senator Curtis King
14th District



Senator Doug Erickson
42nd District



Senator Sharon Brown
8th District



Senator Jim Honeyford
15th District



Senator Phil Fortunato
31st District