

June 23, 2020

## Georgia Steelworkers, We Need YOU!

*Email your state legislators ([usw.to/3bv](http://usw.to/3bv)). Let them know employers must be responsible for the health and safety of their workers.*

Throughout this pandemic, workers in Georgia have kept our economy running by ensuring that we have healthcare, food, utilities, household products, public services, transportation, and more. It's imperative to continue to keep workers safe under these circumstances, but that isn't what is happening. Business groups are dialing up the pressure on state lawmakers to advance legislation that would shield companies from legal liability if workers or customers contract COVID-19.

A new bill, [The Georgia Pandemic Business Immunity Act \(usw.to/3by\) \(HB216\)\(usw.to/3bz\)](#), will risk workers' lives by putting profits above worker health and safety in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of ensuring greater protections for workers and holding bad actors accountable, this bill:

- Gives corporations that are getting workers sick a free pass by exempting employers from any damages related to COVID-19 as a result of the employer's working conditions, actions, or failure to act.
- Shields unscrupulous employers from liability for the death or illness of their employees after exposure to COVID-19, and
- Places the burden on sick workers and their families to prove an employer was engaged in gross negligence, willful misconduct, or reckless or intentional harm in order to hold the company liable for COVID-19 exposure.

We can't expect employers to be responsible for workers' safety without accountability. We have seen it right here in Georgia in workplaces like [Kumho Tire \(usw.to/3bx\)](#), which has amassed a truly deplorable health and safety record in its short time in the state. [As a matter of fact, Kumho Tire Georgia is the only tire manufacturer in America designated by OSHA as a Severe Violator \(usw.to/3bw\)](#) It is already one of the most dangerous employers in America, so do we really think they will keep their workers safe amidst a pandemic?

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Click [HERE \(usw.to/3bv\)](#) to email your Georgia legislator and tell them to **OPPOSE** this dangerous piece of legislation.

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Employers must be held accountable for creating safe workplaces, not given a free pass to ignore worker protections. [Please take action. \(usw.to/3bv\)](#) For up-to-date resources from the USW on COVID-19 click [HERE. \(usw.to/COVID19\)](#) For additional information please contact District 9 Rapid Response Coordinator, Shane Mitchell at [smitchell@usw.org](mailto:smitchell@usw.org).