



115 West Allegan St. Suite 600
Lansing, MI 48933

517-485-3409
NFIB.com

To: Honorable Members of the House Government Operations Committee
From: Amanda Fisher, Assistant State Director
Date: May 19, 2021
RE: Support House Bill 4501 – Reimbursement for Fines Incurred Under Executive Orders

The past 14 months have been hard on small businesses. Living under closures and restrictions has many small businesses struggling to survive. When businesses have been allowed to remain open, they have been subject to very stringent workplace safety regulations that have cost money and time to implement. That's why we urge to support HB 4501.

Due to the constant changes that have occurred at both the state and federal levels in regard to workplace safety (eg: CDC guidelines, Epidemic Orders, MIOSHA Workplace Rules, etc.), it has been overwhelming for a small business to keep track of the current COVID workplace regulations. In fact, the Epidemic Order issued on May 14, 2021 contradicted the MIOSHA Emergency Rules without any guidance coming from MIOSHA until May 17, 2021. That's why HB 4501 is so important. It will ensure businesses who are making a good faith effort have a chance to correct their mistakes.

In addition, for a good part of 2020, these restrictions and regulations were issued through Executive Orders under the 1945 Emergency Powers Act. When the Supreme Court struck down these orders on October 2, 2020, they declared them null and void. Therefore, any fines incurred for failing to follow these unconstitutional rules and regulations, should be refunded to those businesses as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of small business.