July 27, 2020

The NAM’s campaign to secure federal COVID-19 liability protections for manufacturers is bearing fruit. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) introduced the SAFE TO WORK Act yesterday. It’s part of Senate Republicans’ larger proposed COVID-19 relief package and mirrors the NAM’s “Pandemic Liability Policy Recommendations.” It would protect businesses from lawsuits that seek to take advantage of the confusion and evolving landscape of federal, state and local health and safety guidance on COVID-19.

The SAFE TO WORK Act is an opening bid for what will surely be a complex and difficult negotiation involving both parties in the House and Senate, but the NAM is working tirelessly to make the case for why liability protections are necessary and how they would strongly incentivize businesses across the country to do their best to keep workers and customers safe. Stay tuned for a policy briefing later this week on the legislation and how it works. Contact NAM Vice President of Legal and Deputy General Counsel Patrick Hedren or NAM Assistant Vice President of Advocacy Michael O’Brien for details on how to get in touch with your members of Congress and urge them to support these crucial protections.

NAM Guides New Round of Stimulus
Your NAM has been and will continue working closely with members of the House and Senate to ensure a bipartisan stimulus plan. In addition to liability protections, the Senate GOP stimulus proposal released yesterday includes other recommendations from the NAM’s “American Renewal Action Plan.” It would provide increased funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, more funding for testing and additional tax incentives for manufacturers that keep their employees on payroll and to help manufacturers continue investing in personal protective equipment and other safety measures. Click here for a rundown of the key elements from the NAM policy and government relations team.

IRS Provides Guidance on Recapture of Excess Employment Tax Credits
The IRS has issued guidance in the form of temporary and proposed regulations relating to the recapture of erroneously issued employment tax credit refunds associated with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act’s paid sick and family leave tax credit and the CARES Act’s employee retention tax credit. You can read the temporary regulations here and the proposed regulations here. Contact NAM Senior Director of Tax Policy David Eiselsberg with questions.

Please keep visiting the regularly updated nam.org/coronavirus site for the latest information, including operational guidance, our policy plans and resources and an updated breakdown of state and local orders.

If your company is looking for ways to contribute to COVID-19 relief efforts, you can connect with NAM partner Good360. They help companies do good by distributing highly needed product donations to people facing challenging life circumstances—all through their global network of vetted nonprofit partners. Please reference the NAM as your source of referral so we can track the many positive contributions of our members.

Best,
Jay

President and CEO
National Association of Manufacturers