

Large Corporations Use COVID19 Crisis As Latest Vehicle For Familiar Corporate Immunity Proposals

SUMMARY: As workers sound the alarm over unsafe working conditions, corporate interests are attempting to once again distance themselves from liability for worker safety. In a widely signed Chamber of Commerce letter, industry groups argued that corporate immunity legislation would “provide businesses a safe harbor from unwarranted lawsuits.” This is an old argument; many of these same entities have been pushing for corporate immunity for years, repeatedly framing their support around their bottom lines.

- The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**, which claims it represented “more than 3 million businesses” including “large corporations,” has also been a vocal advocate for corporate immunity during coronavirus and for decades prior. More recently, the Chamber spent \$160,000 in the first quarter of 2020 lobbying on legal reform, including \$60,000 from its corporate immunity arm on “issues relating to class actions, multi-district litigation proceedings, and federal jurisdictional matters.”
 - **FLASHBACK:** The chamber launched its corporate immunity arm, the Institute for Legal Reform, in 1998. As recently as 2019, the Chamber supported corporate immunity on the basis of business bottom lines, saying it enabled trial lawyers to benefit while hurting small businesses.
- **Airlines for America (A4A)**, a powerful aviation lobbying group funded by some of the biggest airlines, called for corporate immunity as flight attendants (who were among the first workers to raise the coronavirus alarm in January) fell ill and complained of lack of personal protective equipment.
 - **FLASHBACK:** A mere 11 days following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, airlines were granted corporate immunity, reportedly fearing the impact lawsuits could have on their business. The last wrongful death suit would be settled nearly a decade later. Even further back, as early as 1995, A4A member American Airlines funded corporate immunity initiatives.
- The major casino lobbying group **American Gaming Association** also supported corporate immunity amid COVID as casino workers protested reopening. Said one worker, “We want to go back to work, but we want to go back to work in a safe environment, where we’re not viewed as ‘rats in a lab.’”
 - **FLASHBACK:** AGA in 2013 lauded corporate immunity, saying litigation “negatively impacted U.S. gaming businesses.”
- The **National Restaurant Association** and **National Retail Federation** supported corporate immunity amid the coronavirus pandemic as frontline employees across the country reported being afraid to return to work.
 - **FLASHBACK:** In 2009, the National Restaurant Association called for corporate immunity amid the Affordable Care Act debates. Both the National Restaurant Association and the National Retail Federation signed onto a September 2019 letter opposing measure that would have expanded corporate liability, citing small profit margins in industries and the impact of litigation on business profits.
- **Argentum**, which bills itself as the “leading national association exclusively dedicated to supporting” senior living community operators,” urged Congress to pass corporate immunity after nursing homes

were identified as coronavirus hotspots. Nursing home workers also reportedly faced retaliation after sounding the alarm on lack of personal protective equipment.

- **FLASHBACK:** Operating as the Assisted Living Federation of America, Argentum, supported corporate immunity legislation in Tennessee as early as 2011.
- **FLASHBACK:** In 2018, Argentum celebrated the defeat of proposition 88 in Florida, which would have rescinded tort reform and internal arbitration for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Argentum was joined by the Florida Health Care Association, who opposed the bill on the basis of costly litigation for providers.
- Insurance industry groups such as **American Council Of Life Insurers** and **Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America** joined the push for corporate immunity amid the coronavirus pandemic.
 - **FLASHBACK:** Corporate immunity was spearheaded by insurance companies in the 1970s. A representative for ACLI advocated tort reform to Congress as early as 2003, saying tort reform was necessary to ensure competitiveness in the insurance industry. IIAA listed corporate immunity among the top issues at its 2004 national conference, which it billed as the “industry’s largest and most effective legislative gathering.”
- The **American Hotel & Lodging Association**, which is funded by major corporate players such as Hyatt and Wyndham, renewed support for corporate immunity as workers report being afraid to return.
 - **FLASHBACK:** The American Hotel & Lodging Association opposed the Affordable Care Act because it did not offer corporate immunity.
- The **North American Meat Institute**, joined the corporate chorus calling for immunity amid the coronavirus pandemic, following reports of poor working conditions and plants becoming coronavirus hotspots. NAMI’s board of directors, and PAC contributions, included the Big Four meatpacking companies—Tyson Foods, JBS, Cargill, and National Beef. The spread at meatpacking plants was egregious enough to warrant the Occupational Health and Safety Administration and Centers for Disease Control issuing specific COVID guidance to meatpackers in mid-May 2020.
 - **FLASHBACK:** Tyson Foods joined other corporate giants such as Walmart in supporting an Arkansas tort reform initiative in 2018.

U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Has Been Heavily Involved In Pushing Corporate Immunity For Over Three Decades And Is Leading The Charge Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Has Been A Leading Voice Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

Chamber Of Commerce Wrote To Congress, Urging Them To Support Corporate Immunity

April 13, 2020: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Sent A Letter To Members Advocating For A Plan To Reduce Corporate Liability In The Face Of COVID-19. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Implementing a National Return to Work Plan,” [4/13/20](#)]

May 20, 2020: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Wrote To Congress Urging “Liability Relief Legislation.”

“The undersigned chambers of commerce urge Congress to pass timely, temporary and targeted liability relief legislation to provide businesses a safe harbor from unwarranted lawsuits that, left unchecked, will endanger the fight against the pandemic and undermine the safe and orderly return to work for millions of Americans.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation,” [5/20/20](#)]

May 27, 2020: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Led A Letter To Congress Urging Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

Major Contributions To The Chamber Of Commerce Of The United States Of America PAC (US Chamber PAC), Often Came From People Employees By The Chamber. [Federal Election Commission, Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America PAC (US Chamber PAC), Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

- **Chamber Of Commerce Represents The “Interests Of More Than 3 Million Businesses,” Including “Large Corporations.”** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. Our members range from mom-and-pop shops and local chambers to leading industry associations and large corporations. They all share one thing—they count on the Chamber to be their voice in Washington, D.C.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

Q1 2020: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Spent \$160,000 Lobbying On Legal Reforms

January 1, 2020 To March 31, 2020: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Institute For Legal Reform Paid \$60,000 To Lobby On Litigation Issues. Specific lobbying issues included “S. 471, ‘Litigation Funding Transparency Act of 2019’, regarding all provisions,” and “Issues relating to class actions, multi-district litigation proceedings, and federal jurisdictional matters.” [Clerk of the House of Representatives and Secretary of the Senate, Lobbying Report, [4/20/20](#)]

January 1, 2020 To March 31, 2020: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Paid \$100,000 To Lobby On “Legal Reform Issues.” [Clerk of the House of Representatives and Secretary of the Senate, Lobbying Report, [4/20/20](#)]

FLASHBACK, 1998: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Launched Its Corporate Immunity Branch

HuffPo HEADLINE: “The Secret Chamber of Commerce and Its ‘Tort Reform’ Mission” [HuffPo, [3/18/10](#)]

- **1998: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Launched The “Institute For Legal Reform” To Pursue A Tort Reform Agenda.** “In 1998, the U.S. Chamber created the ILR to pursue the Chamber’s so-called ‘tort reform’ agenda: protecting corporations from liability, weakening the civil jury system and blocking the courthouse door for sick and injured Americans.” [HuffPo, [3/18/10](#)]

FLASHBACK, 2019: U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Supported Corporate Immunity On The Grounds Of Business Realities

September 2019: The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Wrote A Letter Opposing Measures To Expand Corporate Liability. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [9/9/19](#)]

- **The Letter Claimed Expansion Of Corporate Liability Benefitted Trial Lawyers At The Expense Of “Consumers, Small Businesses And Employees.”** “We urge you to oppose the ‘Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal (or FAIR) Act,’ (H.R. 1423 and S. 610), which would effectively outlaw arbitration provisions in private contracts. [...] The only clear beneficiary of eliminating arbitration clauses are plaintiffs’ trial lawyers who would directly benefit from class action litigation replacing cost-effective and fair arbitration as a viable way to resolve disputes. Their gain would come at the expense of consumers, small businesses and employees. Studies have shown that class action settlements frequently provide, at best, a very low return to class members while the plaintiffs’ attorneys take in millions of dollars.” [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [9/9/19](#)]

Airlines Previously Seized On The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks To Shield Themselves From Liability.

Airlines For America (A4A) And Other Aviation Industry Groups Supported Corporate Immunity. Saying It Was Necessary Amidst The Legal Uncertainty Of COVID-19 Regulations.

Airlines For America Signed Onto Multiple Letters Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic

May 11, 2020: Airlines For America And Other Aviation Groups Signed Onto Letter Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID. [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

- **The Letter Said Corporate Immunity Was Necessary Amidst The Uncertainty Of COVID-19, And That Businesses Should Rely On Experts Without Worrying About Legal Liability.** “As customer-centric industries whose employees interact with the general public in physical locations on a constant basis, we write in support of Congressional efforts to create a targeted and limited safe harbor from liability for companies that implement federal public health guidelines related to the transmission of COVID-19. [...] Evolving information about COVID-19 and differences in federal, state, and local guidelines, however, have created legal uncertainty. As a result, companies that diligently implement safety protocols and rely in good faith on public health recommendations and guidelines nonetheless face the prospect of substantial litigation based on virus transmission. These suits do nothing to reduce transmission of COVID-19 but threaten the ability of companies to provide much-needed services and opportunities for Americans to return to work. Consumer-facing businesses should be able to rely on the safety guidelines and reopening parameters issued by experts without the threat of liability for following that guidance.” [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

May 27, 2020: Airlines For America And Other Aviation Groups Signed Onto Letter To Congress Urging Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

Airlines For America Members Included Delta, United, Southwest, And Other Major Airline Carriers. [Airlines for America, Accessed [5/29/20](#)]

Delta, United, Southwest, Alaska, American, Hawaiian, Atlas, And JetBlue Airlines Contributed \$99,000 To Airlines For America (A4A) Political Action Committee Since 1995. More detail can be found in the below table:

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
07/26/1995	Northwest Airlines Political Action Committee (fka Republic Airlines PAC)	\$5,000
09/15/1995	Delta Airlines Inc Political Action Committee	\$3,000
03/05/1996	Delta Airlines Inc Political Action Committee	\$2,000
05/08/1996	American Airlines Political Action Committee	\$2,000
09/24/2004	Southwest Airlines Co Freedom Fund	\$5,000
10/13/2004	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$1,000
03/18/2005	Southwest Airlines Co Freedom Fund	\$5,000
11/17/2005	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$2,000
09/08/2006	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$2,000
12/20/2006	Southwest Airlines Co Freedom Fund	\$5,000
01/14/2008	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$2,000
06/08/2012	Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc. Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/15/2013	Southwest Airlines Co. Freedom Fund	\$5,000
03/20/2013	Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc. Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/25/2013	Jetblue Airways Corporation Crewmember Good Government Fund (jetblue PAC)	\$5,000
05/02/2013	United Airlines Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/04/2014	Southwest Airlines Co. Freedom Fund	\$5,000
03/14/2014	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$5,000
07/25/2014	United Airlines Political Action Committee	\$5,000
09/23/2014	Hawaiian Airlines Inc Political Action Committee	\$5,000
10/10/2014	Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc. Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/10/2015	Southwest Airlines Co. Freedom Fund	\$5,000
02/14/2019	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$2,000
08/29/2019	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$3,000
02/12/2020	Alaska Air Group Inc. Political Action Committee	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$99,000

[Federal Election Commission, Airlines for America (A4A) Political Action Committee, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

Airlines Failed To Provide Workers, Among The First COVID Whistleblowers, With Adequate PPE During The Coronavirus Pandemic

April 2020, TIME HEADLINE: “We’re Definitely Spreading It.’ Flight Attendants Fear They Are Losing the Fight Against the Coronavirus” [TIME, [4/3/20](#)]

- **Flight Attendants Were “Among The First American Workers To Raise The Alarm About A Potential COVID-19 Pandemic” In January 2020.** “Among the first American workers to raise the alarm about a potential COVID-19 pandemic were flight attendants. In late January, as the virus spread outside the Chinese province of Hubei, airline crews staffing international flights to Asia began expressing concerns, asking for disinfection supplies and permission to self-quarantine if they thought they had been exposed.” [TIME, [4/3/20](#)]

April 2020, Business Insider HEADLINE: “At Least 100 American Airlines Flight Attendants Have Contracted The Coronavirus. Some Are Sounding The Alarm Over Shortages Of Personal Protective Equipment.” [Business Insider, [4/8/20](#)]

FLASHBACK: Airlines Previously Received Corporate Immunity A Mere 11 Days Following The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

Airlines Were Granted Corporate Immunity Less Than Two Weeks After 9/11 Terrorist Attacks; The Last Wrongful Death Case Was Settled A Decade Later

Eleven Days Following 9/11, Congress Passed Corporate Immunity For Airlines. “Eleven days after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Congress passed the Air Transportation Safety and Stabilization Act (hereinafter ‘Act’ or ‘Stabilization Act’)¹ to protect air carriers from tort lawsuits that threatened to cripple air travel in America. The Act capped tort lawsuits against the airlines at their pre-existing liability insurance limits and limited jurisdiction for tort claims to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Moreover, the Act established the September 11th Compensation Fund of 2001 (hereinafter ‘Fund’ or ‘9/11 Fund’), in which victims of the attacks could opt to waive all federal and state tort claims and receive administrative relief through a predetermined formula, under the discretion of the Fund administrator.” [Center for Legal Policy at the Manhattan Institute, “Tragic Solutions: The 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, Historical Antecedents, and Lessons for Tort Reform,” [1/13/05](#)]

- **“That The Airlines Were So Concerned About Their Liability Exposure, And The Congress So Willing To Act Promptly On That Concern, Is A Testament To The Mess Our Modern Civil Justice System Has Become.”** [Center for Legal Policy at the Manhattan Institute, “Tragic Solutions: The 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund, Historical Antecedents, and Lessons for Tort Reform,” [1/13/05](#)]

September 2011: The Last Wrongful Death Lawsuit Against Airlines Related To 9/11 Was Resolved. “All of those lawsuits had since been resolved, except one: a suit involving the death of Mark Bavis, a 31-year-old hockey scout who was aboard United Airlines Flight 175, the second plane to hit the World Trade Center. Family members had long resisted a settlement in the case, which was filed in 2002, saying they wanted to hold the defendants publicly accountable at trial for what the family and its lawyers contended was gross negligence that allowed five terrorists to board Flight 175.” [New York Times, [9/19/11](#)]

A4A Member American Airlines Funded Corporate Immunity Initiatives As Early As 1995

1995: American Airlines Contributed \$5,000 To A Group “Seeking A Statewide Vote” On Corporate Immunity In Oklahoma. “A group seeking a statewide vote on tort reform raised more than \$ 600,000 from a handful of Oklahoma corporations and businessmen last month, campaign finance records showed Monday. [...] Other pledges or contributions included Aubrey K. McClendon of Chesapeake Energy Corp., Oklahoma City, \$ 6,250; Tom L. Ward of TLW Production Co., Oklahoma City, \$ 6,250; American Airlines, Tulsa, \$ 5,000; Midwesco, Tulsa, \$ 1,000; and Gaffey/Overhead Cranes, Tulsa, \$ 1,000.” [Daily Oklahoman, 2/14/95]

American Gaming Association Supported COVID Corporate Immunity - After Saying Nearly Seven Years Earlier That Litigation “Has Negatively Impacted U.S. Gaming Business.”

American Gaming Association Joined The Push For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID As Casino Workers Protested Reopening, Saying They Refused To Be “Rats In A Lab.”

American Gaming Association Signed Onto Multiple Letters Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

May 11, 2020: American Gaming Association Signed Onto Letter Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID. [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

- The Letter Said Corporate Immunity Was Necessary Amidst The Uncertainty Of COVID-19, And That Businesses Should Rely On Experts Without Worrying About Legal Liability.** “As customer-centric industries whose employees interact with the general public in physical locations on a constant basis, we write in support of Congressional efforts to create a targeted and limited safe harbor from liability for companies that implement federal public health guidelines related to the transmission of COVID-19. [...] Evolving information about COVID-19 and differences in federal, state, and local guidelines, however, have created legal uncertainty. As a result, companies that diligently implement safety protocols and rely in good faith on public health recommendations and guidelines nonetheless face the prospect of substantial litigation based on virus transmission. These suits do nothing to reduce transmission of COVID-19 but threaten the ability of companies to provide much-needed services and opportunities for Americans to return to work. Consumer-facing businesses should be able to rely on the safety guidelines and reopening parameters issued by experts without the threat of liability for following that guidance.” [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

May 27, 2020: American Gaming Association Signed Onto Letter To Congress Urging Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

American Gaming Association Represents Major Casino Companies, Including Las Vegas Sands, MGM Resorts International, And Wynn Resorts. [American Gaming Association, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

- AGA “Ally Members” Included Morgan Stanley, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, And Sysco Corporation.** [American Gaming Association, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

Las Vegas Sands, MGM, Wynn Resorts, And Boyd Gaming Contributed \$147,500 To American Gaming Association Political Action Committee Since 1996. More detail can be found in the below table:

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
02/29/1996	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/20/1996	MGM Grand Inc PAC (aka: MGM Fed-PAC)	\$5,000
04/02/1997	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
10/19/1998	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
04/23/2001	MGM Mirage PAC	\$5,000
05/04/2001	Boyd Political Action Committee fka Boyd Gaming PAC	\$5,000
01/08/2002	MGM Mirage PAC	\$5,000
07/23/2002	Boyd Political Action Committee fka Boyd Gaming PAC	\$5,000
01/23/2004	MGM Mirage PAC	\$5,000
06/04/2004	Boyd Political Action Committee fka Boyd Gaming PAC	\$5,000
08/02/2005	Boyd Political Action Committee fka Boyd Gaming PAC	\$5,000
03/22/2006	MGM Mirage PAC	\$5,000
03/04/2007	MGM Mirage PAC	\$5,000
06/23/2009	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
07/14/2009	MGM Resorts International PAC	\$5,000
10/13/2010	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/29/2011	MGM Resorts International PAC	\$5,000
04/11/2011	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
05/04/2011	Las Vegas Sands Corp. Political Action Committee (Sands PAC)	\$5,000
01/24/2012	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/21/2012	MGM Resorts International PAC	\$5,000
03/26/2012	Las Vegas Sands Corp. Political Action Committee (Sands PAC)	\$5,000
03/25/2013	MGM Resorts International PAC	\$5,000

03/25/2013	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
05/08/2013	Las Vegas Sands Corp. Political Action Committee (Sands PAC)	\$5,000
04/24/2014	Boyd Gaming Political Action Committee	\$5,000
05/05/2014	MGM Resorts International PAC	\$5,000
04/21/2015	MGM Resorts International PAC	\$5,000
11/30/2016	Wynn Resorts Limited Initiative For Public Policy	\$5,000
12/12/2019	MGM Resorts International PAC	\$2,500
TOTAL		\$147,500

[Federal Election Commission, American Gaming Association Political Action Committee, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

Workers Protested Casino Reopenings Amid Coronavirus Pandemic, Saying They Refused To Be “Rats In A Lab”

April 23, 2020: NBC News HEADLINE: “Las Vegas Workers Push Back After Mayor’s Call To Reopen Casinos And Hotels” [NBC News, [4/23/20](#)]

May 5, 2020: Press Of Atlantic City HEADLINE: “Workers Want Virus Protections Before Casinos Reopen” [Press of Atlantic City, [5/5/20](#)]

May 5, 2020: KSNV HEADLINE: “Local Labor Union Says They Want Coronavirus Safety Measures, Refuse To Be ‘Rats In A Lab’” [KSNV, [5/5/20](#)]

May 15, 2020: WFYI HEADLINE: “Casino Workers Scared To Return Without Health Care, Safety Standards” [WFYI, [5/15/20](#)]

May 18, 2020: NPR HEADLINE: “Coronavirus: Workers Protest Casino Reopen Plans, Election Officials Prepared With PPE” [Lakeshore Public Radio, [5/18/20](#)]

FLASHBACK, 2013: AGA President And CEO Said Litigation Was Bad For Business.

2013: AGA President And CEO Lauded The Passage Of A Federal Corporate Immunity Act, Saying Litigation “Has Negatively Impacted U.S. Gaming Businesses.” “Statement by Geoff Freeman, AGA president and CEO, on House Passage of the Innovation Act of 2013 [...] ‘The gaming industry applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Innovation Act of 2013 in a bipartisan fashion today. This legislation will help reduce frivolous and abusive patent litigation, asserted by patent trolls, that has negatively impacted U.S. gaming businesses, along with a broad range of other industries. The gaming industry is proud to be an innovative, major American economic driver, supporting more than 1 million U.S. jobs. The Innovation Act is an important step toward removing unnecessary hindrances on such innovation, job creation and economic growth. The American Gaming Association (AGA) looks forward to its continued partnership with the Coalition for Patent Fairness as the Senate now considers patent reform in the days ahead.’” [CDC Gaming Reports Inc., [12/5/13](#)]

National Restaurant And Retail Trade Groups Urged Corporate Immunity Pre-COVID, Only To Double Down Amid The Pandemic

As Workers Raised Concerns Over Reopening, Restaurant And Retail Corporate Interests Pushed For Corporate Immunity

National Restaurant And Retail Trade Associations Signed Onto Multiple Letters Supporting Corporate Immunity Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

May 11, 2020: National Restaurant Association And National Retail Federation, Among Others In Their Industries, Signed Onto Letter Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID. [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

- The Aviation Groups Said Corporate Immunity Was Necessary Amidst The Uncertainty Of COVID-19, And That Businesses Should Rely On Experts Without Worrying About Legal Liability.** “As customer-centric industries whose employees interact with the general public in physical locations on a constant basis, we write in support of Congressional efforts to create a targeted and limited safe harbor from liability for companies that implement federal public health guidelines related to the transmission of COVID-19. [...] Evolving information about COVID-19 and differences in federal, state, and local guidelines, however, have created legal uncertainty. As a result, companies that diligently implement safety protocols and rely in good faith on public health recommendations and guidelines nonetheless face the prospect of substantial litigation based on virus transmission. These suits do nothing to reduce transmission of COVID-19 but threaten the ability of companies to provide much-needed services and opportunities for Americans to return to work. Consumer-facing businesses should be able to rely on the safety guidelines and reopening parameters issued by experts without the threat of liability for following that guidance.” [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

May 27, 2020: National Restaurant Association And National Retail Federation Signed Onto Letter To Congress Urging Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

Walmart PAC, Macy’s PAC, And Dick’s Sporting Goods CEO Edward Stack Contributed A Combined \$122,500 To National Retail Federation Retail PAC Since 1994. More detail can be found in the below table:

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
03/07/1994	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee (MAYPAC)	\$1,500
05/06/1996	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee (MAYPAC)	\$2,000
06/03/1997	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee (MAYPAC)	\$3,000
05/27/1998	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee (MAYPAC)	\$3,000
05/25/1999	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee (MAYPAC)	\$3,000
10/03/2000	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee (MAYPAC)	\$5,000
04/20/2001	The May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/26/2002	The May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee	\$5,000
03/04/2003	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee, The	\$5,000
03/09/2004	May Department Stores Company Political Action Committee, The	\$5,000
03/22/2011	Wal-mart Stores Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
02/13/2012	Edward W Stack	\$5,000
04/25/2012	Wal-mart Stores Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
04/19/2013	Wal-mart Stores Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
11/19/2013	Edward W Stack	\$5,000
02/25/2014	Edward W Stack	\$5,000
04/14/2014	Wal-mart Stores Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
02/20/2015	Edward W Stack	\$5,000
06/26/2015	Wal-mart Stores Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
05/05/2016	Wal-mart Stores Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
04/10/2017	Walmart Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
12/19/2017	Edward W Stack	\$5,000
02/09/2018	Walmart Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
10/09/2018	Edward W Stack	\$5,000

04/22/2019	Walmart Inc. Pac For Responsible Government	\$5,000
11/04/2019	Edward W Stack	\$5,000
3/16/2020	Edward W Stack	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$122,500

[Federal Election Commission, National Retail Federation Retail PAC, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

Restaurant And Retail Industry Groups Pushed For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID As Workers Raised Concerns About Reopening

Washingtonian: “Restaurant Workers Are Testing Positive for Covid-19. What Businesses Do Next Is Uncertain.” [Washingtonian, [5/8/20](#)]

Baltimore Sun HEADLINE: “It’s Terrifying’: Service Workers Fear For Their Jobs, Health As Coronavirus Spreads” [Baltimore Sun, [3/14/20](#)]

WSAZ HEADLINE: “Coronavirus: Reopening Restaurants Struggle To Bring Back Employees” [WSAZ, [4/30/20](#)]

FLASHBACK: The National Restaurant Association And National Retail Federation Previously Supported Corporate Immunity, Both Citing Business Profits

2009: National Restaurant Association Called For Corporate Immunity Amid Affordable Care Act Debate. “ Among several things, the NRA calls for containing costs through health-care cooperatives, incentivizing healthy behavior and tort reform, providing tax incentives to encourage individual participation and making insurance plans portable across state lines.” [Fast Casual, [9/7/09](#)]

- **The National Restaurant Association Called For Provisions In The Affordable Care Act, Including Tort Reform, On The Basis Of The Average Restaurant Profit Margin.** “The National Restaurant Association’s Web site has a substantial section dedicated to health-care reform. The organization calls for tailoring reform to the ‘economic and operational realities facing the restaurant industry,’ and says that additional government-imposed costs on operators will be difficult to absorb in an industry with an average profit margin of about 4 percent. Among several things, the NRA calls for containing costs through health-care cooperatives, incentivizing healthy behavior and tort reform, providing tax incentives to encourage individual participation and making insurance plans portable across state lines.” [Fast Casual, [9/7/09](#)]

September 2019: Both The National Restaurant Association And National Retail Federation Signed On To A Letter Opposing Measures To Expand Corporate Liability. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [9/9/19](#)]

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Nursing Home Lobby Called For Corporate Immunity As Workers Reported Retaliation For Reporting COVID Risks – And

Nursing Homes Called For Corporate Immunity As Workers Feared Retaliation For Voicing Health Concerns

Leading Senior Care Industry Group Called For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID

May 27, 2020: Argentum Signed Onto Letter To Congress Urging Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

- **Argentum (FKA Assisted Living Federation Of America) Was The “Leading National Association Exclusively Dedicated To Supporting” Senior Living Companies.** “Argentum is the leading national association exclusively dedicated to supporting companies operating professionally managed, resident-centered senior living communities and the older adults and families they serve.” [Argentum, Accessed [5/27/20](#)]
- **The Aviation Groups Said Corporate Immunity Was Necessary Amidst The Uncertainty Of COVID-19, And That Businesses Should Rely On Experts Without Worrying About Legal Liability.** “As customer-centric industries whose employees interact with the general public in physical locations on a constant basis, we write in support of Congressional efforts to create a targeted and limited safe harbor from liability for companies that implement federal public health guidelines related to the transmission of COVID-19. [...] Evolving information about COVID-19 and differences in federal, state, and local guidelines, however, have created legal uncertainty. As a result, companies that diligently implement safety protocols and rely in good faith on public health recommendations and guidelines nonetheless face the prospect of substantial litigation based on virus transmission. These suits do nothing to reduce transmission of COVID-19 but threaten the ability of companies to provide much-needed services and opportunities for Americans to return to work. Consumer-facing businesses should be able to rely on the safety guidelines and reopening parameters issued by experts without the threat of liability for following that guidance.” [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

Four Of The Five Largest Senior Care Operators Sat On Argentum’s Board Of Directors. Argentum’s Board of Directors included representatives from Brookdale Senior Living, Life Care Services, Sunrise Senior Living and Five Star Senior Living. [Senior Housing News, [9/4/19](#); Argentum, Accessed [5/27/20](#)]

- **Board Representatives From Four Of The Five Largest Senior Care Operators Contributed A Combined \$39,500 To Argentum’s PAC Since 2012.** More detail can be found in the below table:

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
11/07/2012	Potter, Katherine	\$500
10/31/2014	Winkle, Chris	\$3,000
12/31/2015	Winkle, Chris	\$3,000
09/12/2016	Winkle, Chris	\$3,000
09/30/2016	Nelson, Joel Mr.	\$2,000
08/31/2017	Nelson, Joel Mr.	\$3,000
10/31/2017	Winkle, Chris	\$5,000
08/03/2018	Nelson, Joel Mr.	\$3,000
09/12/2018	Patchett, Mary	\$3,000

10/01/2018	Winkle, Chris	\$5,000
07/31/2019	Nelson, Joel Mr.	\$3,000
09/05/2019	Potter, Katherine	\$3,000
09/18/2019	Patchett, Mary Sue	\$3,000
TOTAL		\$39,500

[Federal Election Commission, Argentum’s Silver PAC, Accessed [5/27/20](#)]

Nursing Home Workers Reported Retaliation For Sounding Alarm On COVID Workplace Risks As Employers Admitted To Not Having Enough Personal Protective Equipment Or COVID Tests

NBC News: “The Forgotten Front Line: Nursing Home Workers Say They Face Retaliation For Reporting COVID-19 Risks” [NBC News, [5/19/20](#)]

- **Nursing Homes Had Poor Working And Labor Conditions Prior To Becoming A “Breeding Ground For The Coronavirus.”** “Long before nursing homes became a breeding ground for the coronavirus, aides like Carter have faced low wages, strenuous conditions, communication breakdowns and staffing shortages, according to nursing home workers, advocates and industry experts. But the virus has now turned these challenges into a full-blown crisis for these workers — the majority of whom are women and people of color — who have suddenly found themselves on the front lines of the pandemic, with limited protection and outside oversight.” [NBC News, [5/19/20](#)]
- **“Nursing Homes Have Struggled For Months To Provide Enough Personal Protective Equipment For Employees And COVID-19 Tests For Both Residents And Staff Members.”** “Nursing homes have struggled for months to provide enough personal protective equipment for employees and COVID-19 tests for both residents and staff members, often getting second priority to hospitals. The impact of the virus has been devastating: According to data collected by NBC News, at least one-third of the 90,000 known coronavirus deaths in the United States are linked to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.” [NBC News, [5/19/20](#)]
- **“Some Nursing Home Administrators Have Sounded The Alarm About The Lack Of Protections And Have Been Candid About The Outbreaks And Shortages At Their Workplaces.”** “Some nursing home administrators have sounded the alarm about the lack of protections and have been candid about the outbreaks and shortages at their workplaces. But at other facilities, several workers who spoke to NBC News say their management has been unresponsive to their concerns — in some cases allegedly retaliating against staff members for speaking up, which would violate federal labor law — and has withheld the most basic information about coronavirus cases and deaths.” [NBC News, [5/19/20](#)]

FLASHBACK, 2011: Nursing Home Lobby Supported Corporate Immunity In Tennessee

2011: ALFA Supported Corporate Immunity Legislation In Tennessee. “The Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA) and Tennessee-ALFA, its state chapter, supported this legislation and worked for its passage along with a broad coalition of businesses and trade groups. If signed, the bill will take effect on October 1, 2011 and will apply to all liability actions for injuries after that date.” [Argentum, [5/25/11](#)]

FLASHBACK, 2018: Argentum And Local Lobbyist Groups Counted The Defeat Of A Bill Which Would Have Rescinded Previous Tort Reform Efforts In Nursing Homes As A “Public Policy Victory”

Argentum Listed The Defeat Of Florida’s Proposition 88, Which Would Have Rescinded Tort Reform And Arbitration In Assisted Living And Nursing Homes, As A “Public Policy Victory.”

ARGENTUM OPPOSED/BILLS DEFEATED

Florida

- Proposition 88 – Defeated Prop 88 Before The Florida Constitutional Revision Commission (Would Have Rescinded Tort Reform And Arbitration In Assisted Living And Nursing Homes)

[Argentum – “Argentum Public Policy Victories 2018,” [7/5/18](#)]

Florida Health Care Association: Proposition 88 “Expands The Individuals Who Can Be Named In [...] Nursing Center Lawsuits.” “Proposal 88 selectively moves some current statutorily guaranteed rights to the Constitution and creates other rights which open up broader causes of action for, and expands the individuals who can be named in, nursing center lawsuits. [...] Proposal 88 expands the number of people who can sue and be sued in long term care litigation. This would only serve to increase liability costs and add to the chronic funding challenges already facing the long term care sector.” [Florida Health Care Association, accessed [6/9/20](#)]

Insurance Companies That Spearheaded Corporate Immunity Movement Decades Ago Joined The Corporate Chorus Calling For Immunity Amid COVID

Plethora Of Insurance Trade Associations Signed Onto Letter Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

May 27, 2020: A Plethora Of Insurance Trade Associations Signed Onto Letter Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID. More detail can be found in the table below:

America’s Health Insurance Plans
American Property Casualty Insurance Association (fka American Insurance Association)
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
American Council of Life Insurers
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter of Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

FLASHBACK: Insurance Companies Have Been Calling For Corporate Immunity Since At Least The 1970’s, Previously Calling It A Way To Help Ensure Their Businesses Did Well

The Push For Corporate Immunity Began In The 1970’s, When It Was Spearheaded By Insurance Companies And Large Corporations. “Tort reform started in the 1970s. It was a movement spearheaded by insurance companies and large corporations, the goal of which was to attack the civil justice system and change rules of law, not through case-by-case adjudication, but through public perceptions and legislation limiting personal injury lawsuits.” [Justia, “Tort Reform,” Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

2003: American Council Of Life Insurers Testified To Congress In Favor Of Corporate Immunity, Calling It Necessary For Companies To Be “Healthy And Competitive.” “Much of the testimony this morning has focused on the P&C industry. I'm happy to be here today to testify on behalf of the life insurance industry. By way of background, my name is Steve Rahn. I'm the Director of State Government Relations for the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. I am here today on behalf of the American Council of Life Insurers. [...] Now, if past experience with hearings and other committees is any guide, I think you're very quickly learning and can easily appreciate the fact that the current state-based system of insurance regulation has failed to keep pace as our business and our markets have evolved. There's clear consensus today that the current system is badly broken, and I would point out it's not a difference between a Federal system and a state system. There are already over 50 systems of regulation of insurance under the current state-based system. And I think it's fair to say that most agree that if substantial improvements are not made, and not made quickly, that it will be extremely difficult for life insurers to remain healthy and competitive, and, most importantly, in turn, to provide for the best products for our consumers at the lowest possible cost.” [U.S. Government Printing Office, [10/22/03](#)]

- **2017: American Council Of Life Insurers Began Lobbying On Fairness in Class Action Litigation and Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency Act of 2017, Which Was A Corporate Immunity Bill.** [ProPublica, “American Council of Life Insurers,” Accessed [5/27/20](#)]

2004: Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America Listed Corporate Immunity As One Of The “Top Issues” For Its Annual National Legislative Conference. “The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA) has scheduled its 28th annual National Legislative Conference, the industry's largest and most effective legislative gathering, for April 21-23 at The Capital Hilton in downtown Washington, D.C. [...] Top issues this year include insurance regulatory modernization, tort reform, passage of a flood insurance reform bill, and changes in the tax treatment of intangible assets.” [Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, [1/14/04](#)]

- **The Conference Was Billed As The “Industry’s Largest And Most Effective Legislative Gathering.”** “The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA) has scheduled its 28th annual National Legislative Conference, the industry's largest and most effective legislative gathering, for April 21-23 at The Capital Hilton in downtown Washington, D.C.” [Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, [1/14/04](#)]

2004: American Insurance Association (AKA American Property Casualty Insurance Association) And National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies Sponsored The Property/Casualty Joint Industry Forum, Which Promoted Corporate Immunity. “The high cost of the U.S. tort system makes products more expensive for all Americans and inhibits investment that can create jobs. It is not an insurance industry problem, but a national economic problem, insurance industry leaders told insurance executives attending the eighth annual Property/Casualty Joint Industry Forum, held here this week. [...] The organizations jointly sponsoring the Forum represent a broad base of insurance interest and audiences. In addition to the Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.), they include: The American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (AICPCU), American Insurance Association (AIA), Association for Cooperative Operations Research & Development, The Geneva Association, Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), International Insurance Society (IIS), National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC), National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), National Insurance Crime Bureau, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, and the Reinsurance Association of America (RAA).” [Insurance Information Institute, Press Release, [1/14/04](#)]

2010: America’s Health Insurance Plans “Actively Promotes” Corporate Immunity. “More recently, various interest groups have begun to connect tort reform with health insurance coverage. America's Health

Insurance Plans (AHIP) (2006), a national association of health insurance providers, actively promotes tort reform, arguing that defensive medicine and litigation costs increase health insurance premiums by nearly 9%” [American Law and Economics Review, “The Impact of Tort Reform on Private Health Insurance Coverage,” [6/26/07](#)]

American Hotel & Lodging Association Renewed Decadelong Call For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID

As Workers Protested Reopening, American Hotel & Lodging Called For Corporate Immunity

American Hotel & Lodging Association Signed Onto Multiple Letters Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

May 11, 2020: American Hotel & Lodging Association And Other Hotel Groups Signed Onto Letter Calling For Corporate Immunity Amid COVID. [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

- The Aviation Groups Said Corporate Immunity Was Necessary Amidst The Uncertainty Of COVID-19, And That Businesses Should Rely On Experts Without Worrying About Legal Liability.** “As customer-centric industries whose employees interact with the general public in physical locations on a constant basis, we write in support of Congressional efforts to create a targeted and limited safe harbor from liability for companies that implement federal public health guidelines related to the transmission of COVID-19. [...] Evolving information about COVID-19 and differences in federal, state, and local guidelines, however, have created legal uncertainty. As a result, companies that diligently implement safety protocols and rely in good faith on public health recommendations and guidelines nonetheless face the prospect of substantial litigation based on virus transmission. These suits do nothing to reduce transmission of COVID-19 but threaten the ability of companies to provide much-needed services and opportunities for Americans to return to work. Consumer-facing businesses should be able to rely on the safety guidelines and reopening parameters issued by experts without the threat of liability for following that guidance.” [Politico, [5/11/20](#)]

May 27, 2020: American Hotel & Lodging Association And Other Hotel Groups Signed Onto Letter To Congress Urging Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

American Hotel & Lodging Association Represents Major Hospitality Companies, Including Disney, Wyndham, Hersha, And Ashford. [American Hotel & Lodging Association, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

Executives At Wyndham, Hyatt, G6 Hospitality, Apple Hospitality, And Pebblebrook Contributed \$184,250 To The American Hotel And Lodging Political Action Committee (“HOTELPAC”) Since 2006. More detail can be found in the below table:

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
04/01/2006	Ballotti, Geoff	\$250
03/08/2007	Ballotti, Geoff Mr.	\$250
02/21/2008	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
02/28/2008	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
03/28/2008	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$250
02/09/2009	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
04/15/2009	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000

04/21/2010	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
09/30/2011	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
05/23/2012	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$1,000
03/27/2014	Bortz, Jon E. Mr.	\$1,000
04/01/2014	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$5,000
04/08/2014	Bortz, Jon E. Mr.	\$4,000
05/22/2014	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
06/04/2014	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
01/15/2015	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
01/23/2015	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$5,000
01/23/2015	Bortz, Jon E. E Mr.	\$5,000
01/30/2015	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
01/15/2016	Bortz, Jon Mr.	\$5,000
01/15/2016	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
06/17/2016	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$5,000
10/17/2016	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
01/10/2017	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
01/11/2017	Bortz, Jon Mr.	\$5,000
01/13/2017	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$5,000
03/02/2017	Juceam, Greg	\$2,500
07/24/2017	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
01/13/2018	Bortz, Jon Mr.	\$5,000
01/18/2018	Juceam, Greg	\$5,000
01/23/2018	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
04/04/2018	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$5,000
08/23/2018	Hoplamazian, Mark S. Mr.	\$5,000
01/15/2019	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$5,000
01/16/2019	Juceam, Greg Mr.	\$5,000
01/28/2019	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
04/11/2019	Bortz, Jon Mr.	\$5,000
05/31/2019	Hoplamazian, Mark	\$5,000
01/08/2020	Knight, Justin G. Mr.	\$5,000
01/27/2020	Juceam, Greg Mr.	\$5,000
01/27/2020	Bortz, Jon Mr.	\$5,000
01/27/2020	Ballotti, Geoffrey A. Mr.	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$184,250

[Federal Election Commission, American Hotel & Lodging Association, Accessed [5/21/20](#)]

Hotels' Push For Corporate Immunity Came As Workers Pushed Back On Reopening

April 23, 2020: NBC News HEADLINE: "Las Vegas Workers Push Back After Mayor's Call To Reopen Casinos And Hotels" [NBC News, [4/23/20](#)]

Baltimore Sun HEADLINE: "It's Terrifying': Service Workers Fear For Their Jobs, Health As Coronavirus Spreads" [Baltimore Sun, [3/14/20](#)]

FLASHBACK: American Hotel & Lodging Association Promoted Corporate Immunity During The Affordable Care Act Debates

2010: American Hotel & Lodging Association Opposed The Affordable Care Act Because It Did "Not Provide Meaningful" Corporate Immunity. "The industry's position: Last Friday, we urged members to ask their Representatives to vote against this legislation for the following reasons: • Does not allow small business

pooling across state lines • Adds a new \$2,000 per employee penalty on many employers • Raises costs of drugs and many medical services • Does not provide meaningful tort reform” [HNN Newswire, American Hotel & Lodging Association, [3/25/10](#)]

Meatpacking Industry Joined Call For Corporate Immunity Following Widespread Reports Dangerous Working Conditions Made Plants Coronavirus Hotspots

2020: Meatpackers Became A Flashpoint In The Corporate Immunity Debate As Poor Working Conditions Made Plants COVID-19 Hotspots

North American Meat Institute Pushed For Corporate Immunity Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

May 27, 2020: North American Meat Institute Signed Onto Letter To Congress Urging Corporate Immunity Amid The Coronavirus Pandemic. [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Coalition Letter on Liability Relief Legislation In Response to the Pandemic,” [5/27/20](#)]

- **NAMI Members Included The “Big Four” Meatpacking Companies: Tyson Foods, Inc.; JBS USA; Cargill, Inc.; And National Beef Packing Co., LLC.** [North American Meat Institute, Accessed [5/27/20](#)]
- **Each Of The Big Four Meatpacking Companies Had A Representative On NAMI’s Board Of Directors.** [North American Meat Institute, Accessed [5/27/20](#)]

Big Four Meatpacking Companies And Their Representatives On NAMI’s Board Contributed Nearly \$25,000 To NAMI PAC Since 1994. More detail can be found in the below table:

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT
10/19/1994	Tyson Foods Inc Political Action Committee (Typac)	\$5,000
04/28/2004	Swift (aka JBS USA)	\$500
05/13/2004	White, Noel	\$300
11/02/2005	White, Noel	\$500
07/28/2006	Keating, John	\$250
06/04/2007	White, Noel	\$500
09/11/2007	Keating, John	\$250
10/20/2008	JBS USA, Inc. Pac	\$2,500
08/21/2009	Klein, Tim M. Mr.	\$250
07/15/2010	Keating, John	\$500
09/21/2011	White, Noel W.	\$250
06/18/2012	Klein, Tim	\$3,000
09/18/2013	White, Noel W.	\$500
10/09/2015	White, Noel W.	\$500
05/02/2016	Keating, John	\$500
04/13/2017	Keating, John Mr.	\$500
04/25/2018	Klein, Tim Mr.	\$1,000
04/25/2018	Keating, John Mr.	\$500
01/18/2019	Keating, John Mr.	\$500
02/08/2019	White, Noel W. Mr.	\$5,000

04/15/2019	Keating, John Mr.	\$500
TOTAL		\$23,300

[Federal Election Commission, North American Meat Institute Political Action Committee, Accessed [5/27/20](#)]

Meatpackers' Widespread Coronavirus Outbreaks Prompted Corporate Immunity Flashpoint, OSHA And CDC To Issue Specific Guidelines For Plants

May 12, 2020: OSHA And CDC Released Specific COVID Guidance For Meatpacking Plants In Response To “Multiple Outbreaks Of COVID-19 Among Meat And Poultry Processing Facility Workers.” “Multiple outbreaks of COVID-19 among meat and poultry processing facility workers have occurred in the United States recently. This document provides guidance for meat and poultry processing workers and employers—including those involved in beef, pork, and poultry operations.” [Centers for Disease Control, “Interim Guidance from CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA),” [5/12/20](#)]

May 7, 2020, The Counter HEADLINE: “President Trump Described Meatpackers’ “Liability Problems.” Here’s What That Could Mean For Workers.” [The Counter, [5/7/20](#)]

- **Trump Issued An Executive Order Keeping Meatpacking Plants Open After A Full-Page Ad From Tyson Food’s Chairman Following A Streak Of Closures.** “Last week, amid a rash of closures in the major meatpacking sector, and after much public conversation over a full-page newspaper ad taken by Tyson Foods’s chairman proclaiming America’s food supply chain was “breaking,” President Trump issued an executive order to keep meat plants open.” [The Counter, [5/7/20](#)]

May 7, 2020, Wired HEADLINE: “Why Meatpacking Plants Have Become Covid-19 Hot Spots” [Wired, [5/7/20](#)]

- **Cold Temperatures, Cramped Workspaces, And Long Hours “Put Meat Processing Workers At Higher Risk For Contracting The Novel Coronavirus.”** “Frigid temperatures, cramped conditions, and long hours put meat processing workers at higher risk for contracting the novel coronavirus.” [Wired, [5/7/20](#)]

May 25, 2020, New York Times HEADLINE: “As Meatpacking Plants Reopen, Data About Worker Illness Remains Elusive” [New York Times, [5/25/20](#)]

FLASHBACK, 2018: Tyson Foods Supported A Tort Reform Initiative In Arkansas

2018: Tyson Foods, Walmart, And The Trucking Industry Supported An Arkansas Tort Reform Initiative. “In 2018, when the Legislature proposed an amendment, Issue 1, that included limits on both noneconomic and punitive damages, other business interests, including Walmart Inc., Tyson Foods Inc. and the trucking industry joined health care groups in support of the effort, providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations to a ballot campaign.” [Arkansas Online, [2/27/19](#)]