

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Chair, Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee
1020 N Street, Room 152
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 420 (Quirk-Silva and Valladares) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Quirk-Silva and Vice Chair Valladares,

On behalf of Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, **thank you for authoring Assembly Bill 420** to place all amusement parks in the Orange – Moderate – Tier 3 of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. OCBC enthusiastically supports your bill to help safely reopen amusement parks, which will restore tens of thousands of jobs and thousands of small businesses across the state that rely on the visitors to their local amusement parks. OCBC also strongly supports the bill's \$500,000 competitive grant program to assist amusement parks with purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) for their employees.

Under the existing Blueprint for a Safer Economy, amusements parks are treated differently according to size. Currently, smaller parks are permitted to open at 25 percent capacity when their county reaches the Orange – Moderate – Tier 3 while larger parks are required to wait until their county reaches the Yellow – Minimal – Tier 4. AB 420 would remove this disparity. Amusement parks across the country and around the world have opened safely and responsibly. There are no known outbreaks of COVID-19 that can be traced back to amusement parks. California's amusement parks are very well-equipped to operate with the utmost health standards and protocols in place, providing a safe activity for residents and visitors.

Disneyland, which was Orange County's largest employer prior to the pandemic, is essential to the region's economy and should be allowed to safely reopen in the Orange Tier. Reopening amusement parks one tier sooner will aid the thousands of small businesses, including restaurants, retailers, and hotels, that depend on amusement park visitors and enable thousands of people to return to work. Saving these jobs and small businesses will produce tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue for local and state government while also lowering government expenses by reducing the number of people and businesses seeking government aid. The grant would ensure that amusement parks, which have had immense difficulty generating revenue for nearly a year, are supported in protecting their employees.

Thank you again for authoring this vital, bipartisan bill. OCBC supports AB 420 and urges the Committee to vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs

cc: Members, Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee
Dana Mitchell, Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee