



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA

MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
Via Email: GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the residents and businesses of Miami-Dade County, I urge you to veto SB 620. This piece of legislation was introduced without a specific harm identified and will undoubtedly lead to unintended consequences.

Although the bill was amended to address some of the concerns with the original language, we fear that the creation of a private cause of action will lead to countless frivolous lawsuits whenever a local government passes a law perceived as unfavorable to a single entity. We are also concerned that the volume of lawsuits will worsen the already litigious climate in Florida and negatively impact taxpayers.

Miami-Dade County's economy was recently ranked the most-recovered in the entire nation and we hope to build on that progress by making historic investments in Miami-Dade's workforce and small businesses. We achieved this by working alongside our business community and implementing solutions that were focused squarely on empowering them to achieve the best results and outcomes for businesses. SB 620 would instead pit businesses against each other when one entity does not like an otherwise competitively neutral and socially beneficial legislation that could nevertheless benefit a competing entity. The economic progress of Miami-Dade County and the state of Florida in general would be undermined by the increased litigation costs this bill would impose on local governments.

The legislation not only impacts local governments' initiatives to empower businesses, but it also impairs local governments' exercise of their most fundamental function: protecting the health and safety of their residents and visitors. SB 620 would create a new legal standard that allows for an "impacted business" to request damages solely based on lost revenue without consideration for the extent to which an ordinance furthers a legitimate public interest.

Further, this legislation is yet another example of continued efforts to preempt our ability to make decisions at the local level. Restricting our ability to respond creatively to our unique local issues not only hurts public health, safety, and welfare, but it also puts our economy at risk. I strongly urge you to respect our home rule authority and the will of our residents by vetoing this harmful legislation.

I trust you will see the pitfalls in this legislation and the harm it will produce to our strong, coordinated and far-encompassing economic recovery in the largest county in the state of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava