



KANSAS STATE BOWLING PROPRIETORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mailing Address: Kansas State BPA, P.O. Box 4449 Topeka, Ks. 66604

Shipping Address: 3772 SW Wood View Drive Topeka, Ks. 66610 Ph. 785-224-9300

Rex Haney Executive Director

RexHaneyKSBPA@cox.net

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On behalf of the 62 bowling centers making up the Kansas State Bowl Proprietors Association, I am requesting you to allow our centers to reopen immediately. The Bowling Proprietors Association of America, using the effective best practices that have been developed over the last months by our national association, will allow our customer base to enter and enjoy our establishments in a safe and effective manner using the procedures that have been developed. They have provided reopening resources that include PPE purchasing solutions, online COVID-19 Social Distancing & Personal Hygiene training, and the sharing of the best practices from 12+ states that have bowling centers operating under state approved guidelines. Copies of these can be provided to show you that every area of reopening has been covered in great detail, not allowing this to be covered in a single page testimony for today however.

Bowling can provide a safe, sanitized, and secure environment for both staff and guests in the communities we serve. Bowling centers by their very design are constructed in a way that provides families and friends built in Social Distancing beyond the CDC recommended 6 feet.

Kansas bowling centers, like many other small retail businesses, have suffered large financial hardship during the COVID-19 mandated shutdown. The months of March, April and May typically can create much needed revenue to get our businesses through the summer months. This shutdown and expanded in Phase 1.5 have put many of our centers in a financial crisis that they will not have the revenue needed to survive. A large majority of our centers are family owned and operated and left with the reality, that without reopening soon, permanent closure may be imminent.

Bowling has been a major contributor to community events and fund raisers in many of our Kansas communities. Our facilities serve as destinations for entertainment, fundraising, birthday celebrations, high school bowling and much more. We have diligently served in our communities with a sense of pride, respect, and belonging. Bowling center owners are some of the most caring and dedicated people I have ever known, many working long hours to serve their communities and bring joy to their guests.

Many of our members and my close friends have asked me why our industry has been picked to be one of the losers in the reopening of the Kansas economy? We have covered our bases in regard to developing a reopening that follows the guidelines that have been recommended by many of the experts in the health sector. Our bowling centers were built in a manner that can provide safe social distancing, especially compared to some of the facilities that have been open and are allowed to open this week (example fitness centers), the winners. Who should pick the winners and losers in Kansas? Shouldn't it be the people of Kansas!

In short, we are asking today for the opportunity to save our bowling centers from financial ruin. With the proper measures in place, our bowling centers can provide a clean, safe environment for our customers and employees. Our bowling centers can provide the opportunity for people to participate in an activity for a healthy body and mind.

Without the ability to open soon we lose most of these businesses for good. Many of us have dedicated our lives to our communities and need your support to keep our doors open for years to come. Please help bowling survive and all our bowling centers to be opened back up.

Sincerely,

Rex Haney