

**FROM: AAMA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

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**TO: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL)**

444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 515  
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**DATE**

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March 2020 brought unforeseen circumstances to not only our country, but the world. To some degree, every individual and business has been impacted by COVID-19. As we all continue to work towards physical, emotional, mental, and financial recovery, it is imperative we look at the lessons learned from the last eight months to improve both industry, and government policies and procedures in response to this pandemic.

The amusement and leisure industries are ubiquitous across the country – one would be hard pressed to find a city, town, or hamlet anywhere in America without at least one segment of our industry present.

These facilities are an integral part of the communities in which they serve and, when they're shut down, a big part of the fun of living in these communities is taken away. They are the go-to place for birthday parties, corporate events, an enjoyable day out with family and friends, and a place where our children can have fun and be safe. Experts concur that given the current state of the country, access to healthy, fun outlets where families can escape the constant stream of bad news are more important than ever.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, the amusement, gambling, and recreation industries quarterly gross output averaged \$168 billion for 2019, (a total of \$671 billion for the year). The second quarter of 2020 saw that number dramatically drop to \$77 billion, (45% of the per quarter average of 2019) with our third quarter numbers only showing a small incremental increase.

In March of 2020, these industries provided 1,757,100 jobs. In April, that total plummeted 53% to 748,900. Today, both gross revenues and employee head counts remain well below pre-Covid totals, with our unemployment rate still at about 40%.

At the onset of the pandemic, most of the venues within these industries were ordered closed as part of mitigation efforts to thwart the spread of Covid-19. Today, there are regions of the country where bowling centers, trampoline parks, roller skating arenas, and family entertainment centers are still not allowed to reopen while venues with similar touchpoints, (i.e. casinos, gyms, self-serve laundromats and restaurants) have been allowed to reopen. In the sense of fairness these inconsistent standards should be aligned so all these similar touchpoint venues are treated fairly and equitably.

In October, three leisure and amusement industry trade associations, the American Amusement Machine Association, ([AAMA](#)) the International Association of Trampoline Parks, ([IATP](#)) and the International Roller Skating Association, ([RSA](#)) conducted a Covid-19 Impact Survey of their respective memberships. The results are described in this [press release](#) and [this infographic](#). The survey graphically illustrates we're still a long way from getting back to pre-Covid levels of business.

We ask that state legislatures for their help in the following areas:

- Provide consistency amongst the leisure sector as it relates to opening and operations
- Provide state funding for leisure businesses trying to sustain at reduced or no capacity
- Acknowledge our facilities all have health and safety protocols in place that meet or exceed CDC guidelines

The AAMA, IATP and RSA have encouraged their members to comply with all recommended cleaning and sanitizing standards set forth by the CDC to limit the spread of COVID - 19. As an industry, we understand the health and safety of our team members and guests is our highest priority, and one we take extremely seriously. The cleaning and sanitizing protocols we've promoted are part of our ongoing effort to ensure everyone that enters one of our amusement venues will be able to experience good, clean fun.

To see what that looks like, please take a moment to view the below videos.

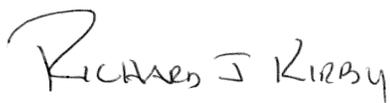
- A PSA from the American Amusement Machine Association, (venues are encouraged to broadcast this on inhouse video systems)
  - [AAMA PSA](#)
- From Xtreme Action Park in Fort Lauderdale, FL
  - [General Covid-19 Procedures](#)
  - [Arcade and Attractions Area](#)
  - [Food & Beverage Area](#)
- From Wild Island Coconut Bowl in Sparks, NV
  - [General Covid-19 Procedures](#)

These all provide examples of the incredible steps being taken throughout our industry, ensuring we're doing all we can to provide safe environments for our team members and guests.

Our industry provides environments where good memories with family and friends are created. To do so, we know we must first ensure our guests and team members feel safe and secure while visiting one of our amusement centers. We will do all we can to earn their trust and ensure these are venues you, and your family and friends can come enjoy good, clean fun.

Sincerely,

DATA GATHERED WITH  
THE ASSISTANCE OF  
**RSA AND IATP**



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Divisional Executive VP  
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INTERNATIONAL  
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TRAMPOLINE  
PARKS



Roller Skating Association  
INTERNATIONAL

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