

## Harris Quoted in *Columbus Business First* Story Titled “Ohio Businesses May Have New Protections, but COVID-19 Lawsuits are Still Possible”

### Related Attorneys

Robert A. Harris

### Related Services

Corporate and Business Organizations

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Bob Harris, a partner in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the labor and employment group, was quoted in a *Columbus Business First* story titled about a bill signed into law by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine that gives Ohio businesses more protection from lawsuits related to exposure, transmission or contraction of COVID-19.

### The story states:

*“This will forestall a lot of litigation that may not have been successful anyway,” said Bob Harris, a partner with Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease in Columbus. ‘It affords some measure of protection for businesses from lawsuits. That’s the good news, that businesses are freed up from having to worry about this issue.’*

*But Harris did note the carve-out pertaining to reckless behavior.*

*‘That doesn’t mean you’re excluded from safety protocols,’ he said. ‘It’s a bad idea to think that you can just relax.’”*

### The story also stated:

*“Meanwhile, though the legislation may be seen by some as stopping employees from suing a business, Harris said that actually isn’t an issue because those employee illness and injury cases already are handled by the state’s workers’ compensation system. H.B. 606 makes no changes to that.*

*Harris had another word of caution to employers.*

*‘Don’t take this as a sign to take action against employees,’ he said. ‘If you have an employee that needs accommodations or one who has registered complaints, you still need to deal with that.’”*

To read the entire story on the *Columbus Business First* website, [click here](#). (Subscription may be required).