



January 31, 2017

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **HB 317** - Wages and Benefits – Preemption of Local Authority - **Support**

Dear Delegate Davis:

As is the case with many laws and regulations affecting businesses, having a patch-work quilt of employment laws, all with different provisions and requirements, makes doing business in the state far more difficult and burdensome than it needs to be. Imagine being a business with locations in more than one county or city, and having to navigate different sets of standards for each.

A commonsense approach is to combine certain of these under one state law that binds all jurisdictions within the state to one set of standards. House Bill 317 is such a law. It would prohibit a county or municipality from enacting a law that regulates wages or benefits for employees in a manner different from state law. It would also prohibit such laws from being enforced if the law was enacted on or after January 1, 2017.

Currently, several localities, most notably Montgomery and Prince George's County already have minimum wage laws and sick leave laws that are different from the rest of the state. Baltimore City is poised to pass another such law. Maryland should be looking for ways to encourage new businesses to locate here, and to retain those businesses that are here now. Passing legislation that not only adds financial, administrative and compliance requirements is not going to further the goal of maintaining or increasing the economic health of our state.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members, strongly supports this bill and therefore requests that you give it a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Susan W. Krebs
Senator Justin Ready

**Carroll County Chamber of Commerce • 9 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157
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