



January 31, 2017

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton
Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 305 – Commonsense Paid Leave Act - Oppose

Dear Senator Middleton:

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members, opposes bills that impose one-size-fits-all mandated benefits on all employers, regardless of size. Smaller employers (certainly those less than 50) face a disproportionately negative effect. As with HB1/SB305, we also oppose Gov. Hogan's version of a paid leave bill for many of the same reasons.

However, if such a mandate is passed, the Governor's bill would be less onerous than the other versions currently being considered.

We would highly recommend that the effective date be changed to 1/1/18. As it stands, an effective date of 10/1/17 ignores the fact that employers have not only already set accrual schedules for leave, but at that point are three-quarters of the year through those accruals. Having to re-set on 10/1/17, or run two different paid leave programs for the remainder of the year is not reasonable.

As stated, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill and asks that you give it an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

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

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate Susan W. Krebs

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