



March 20, 2017

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 971** – Procurement – Nondiscrimination Clauses and State Policy Prohibiting  
Discrimination – **Oppose**

Dear Senator Conway:

Senate Bill 971 expands the State's commercial nondiscrimination policy to establish that it is the policy of the State not to enter into a contract with a business entity that has discriminated in the formation or composition of a board of directors on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, or sexual orientation, or on the basis of disability or any otherwise unlawful use of characteristics.

This appears to be another example of a solution in search of a problem. No evidence is provided that the composition of any state contractors' boards of directors is either discriminatory or has any ill effect on the execution of those contracts.

Furthermore, as has often occurred, this leaves the door open to further state action to interfere with and control corporate decisions as to the people who are selected to serve on such boards.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members, opposes this bill and therefore requests 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