



February 21, 2018

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

RE: HB 1611 – Courts – Concealment of Public Hazard and Sexual Harassment (Sunshine in Litigation Act) – **Oppose**

Dear Delegate Davis:

It is recognized that all of us have a moral duty to prevent sexual harassment, and to combat it when it occurs; however, defining it as a public hazard is an unreasonable reaction to the problem.

In addition, this bill seems to be prohibiting any contract or settlement agreement that contains any confidentiality or non-disclosure provisions that may “conceal” sexual harassment.

It is far better to allow such provisions, but making it voluntary for the aggrieved party. There are those who will want to maintain their privacy, but will be unable to do so with this law as the prohibition applies to all parties of the agreement or contract.

This bill attempts to provide some measure of benefit to a victim of sexual harassment, when in fact, it deprives that person of a valuable option – maintaining his/her privacy if desired.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 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: Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Senator Justin Ready

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