



February 23, 2019

The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0776 – Constitutional Amendment - Civil Jury Trials - Amount in Controversy –
Oppose

Dear Senator Zirkin:

This bill would provide for a constitutional amendment that would increase the amount in controversy needed to receive a jury trial in civil cases from \$15,000 up to \$30,000.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes this Constitutional Amendment to change the amount in controversy needed for a jury trial because there is no demonstrable need to increase this threshold. Nine years ago, in the 2010 legislative session, this threshold was increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and there is no evidence that a further increase is needed. This bill will especially hurt small businesses which would have no access to a jury trial in the case of a relatively small amount, which may be a large amount in relation to a small business.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 500 members, requests that you give this bill 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 Haven Shoemaker