



January 29, 2021

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

RE: **HB 0581** – Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency
(Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act) – **Oppose**

Dear Delegate Davis:

HB 0581 seeks to require an array of required actions and mandated pay and benefits during the current and any future Emergency, as declared by the state of Maryland.

This bill presents a number of serious problems to the health of the state's business community, beginning with the incredibly broad definitions of "essential" businesses and "essential worker".

In addition, the occupational safety and health requirements (including the ability of an employee to refuse to perform unsafe tasks) are already provided for under both OSHA and MOSHA standards, as well as several other federal and state laws. These requirements are in effect regardless of any state of emergency.

The current pandemic has caused thousands to lose their jobs due to restrictions already placed on businesses. Those same restrictions (as necessary as they may be) have caused thousands of small and medium-sized businesses to close permanently. The imposition of mandated pay and benefits such as are required by this bill will force many more to close at the current time, as well as during any future emergency situation.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members, strongly opposes this bill. We therefore request 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

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce • 9 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157
Phone: 410-848-9050 • Fax: 410-876-1023 • www.carrollcountychamber.org