



February 11, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis  
Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231 House Office Bldg.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB 1002 – Unemployment Insurance - Revisions and Required Study – Oppose**

Dear Delegate Davis:

HB 1002 requires the Maryland Department of Labor to take actions designed to better enable it to administer the State's unemployment insurance laws. Those actions include ensuring adequate staffing, timeliness of claims processing, answering phones/emails, etc. The bill also allows for claims due to COVID to not be charged to employer accounts.

As we are all well aware, too many Marylanders have faced extreme difficulty in filing claims, receiving benefits, or resolving denied claims. The Unemployment Division is not answering the phones, is not returning or acknowledging emails and is taking – in many case – way too long to adjudicate claims. While we understand that all states have experienced problems being overloaded with claims during the pandemic, it has now been almost a year, and there seems to be very little improvement.

This bill would seem to be a good start to ensuring that improvement happens and Maryland citizens and the businesses funding the system are better served.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members, supports this bill and asks that you give it a favorable 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  
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