



March 9, 2022

Ways and Means Committee
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1284 - Income Tax – Credit for Cybersecurity Measures Undertaken by Small Businesses– Support

Dear Delegate Atterbeary:

HB 1284 would authorize a refundable credit against the State income tax for a small business that employs 50 or fewer employees for those costs incurred during the taxable year for certain cybersecurity measures.

Maryland is showing itself to be a strong force in cybersecurity. We want to continue leading the charge by incentivizing small businesses to protect themselves. We want to demonstrate to both the public and businesses that Maryland understands the importance of the field and is willing to back that up with support.

We know all too well the damage (monetary and reputational) that criminals cause with malware, ransomware and general hacking/breaching of data to both private businesses and government agencies. Those costs also convey to the *customers* of both private businesses and government agencies. As such, it would be very beneficial to assist those businesses with their cybersecurity efforts.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 680 members, supports this bill. We therefore request that you give this bill 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