



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE PAM QUEEN
HB 122 - Commemorative Month – Small Business Month
SUPPORT**

Greetings Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Bonnie Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I seek a favorable recommendation for HB 122 - Commemorative Month – Small Business Month

Purpose:

Nationally, small businesses create jobs, drive innovation, and boost economic growth. As the backbone of the U.S. economy, small businesses account for 99.7% of all U.S. businesses and employ 47.1% of private sector workers. Additionally, these businesses benefit communities by supporting local charities and sponsoring community events.

In Maryland, there are 604,176 small businesses which account for 99.5% of all businesses in the state. Yet, according to a 2024 Forbes article about the best states for starting a new business, Maryland ranked **41 out of 50** with Pennsylvania ranked as 7th, West Virginia ranked as 15th, Virginia ranked as 16th, and Delaware ranked as 26th. These rankings were based on factors including business costs, business climate, financial accessibility, economy, and available workforce.

Approach:

Establishing a small business month in Maryland will implement a concerted, comprehensive recognition of the importance of promoting small businesses. Small Business Month is celebrated each year in May as a special tribute of the courage, tenacity, hard work, community engagement, and economic growth that these businesses contribute.

Small business month celebrations include award ceremonies, seminars, networking events, trade shows, educational, and training sessions. It's a month to bring together entrepreneurs and prospective entrepreneurs at conferences, workshops, luncheons, and trade fairs across the state to strengthen Maryland's business ecosystem. Additionally, this is a great opportunity for current and potential customers to support a new or different local small business for at least 31 days.

Many of our neighboring states have extended the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) National Small Business Week for an entire month. I seek a favorable

recommendation for HB 122 to support small businesses and strengthen Maryland's economy.

