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The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 1031 -Civil Actions - Lead Poisoning - Liability and Statute of Limitations (Maryland Lead Poisoning Compensation Act) UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of my client, the Maryland Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (MAMIC), we respectfully request an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 1031.

MAMIC is comprised of 12 mutual insurance companies that are headquartered in Maryland and neighboring states. Approximately one-half of our members are domiciled in Maryland, and are key contributors and employers in our local communities.

Lead poisoning, and formerly lead paint poisoning, have a long history of legislative initiatives in our State. We were an early jurisdiction to create a formal commission to address this serious public health problem, and our civil justice system has been deeply involved in the issue for decades.

While MAMIC respects the importance of this issue and the sponsor's interest in bringing this initiative before the General Assembly, we strongly object to two provisions of the bill: 1) language eliminating of the statute of limitations on page 2, lines 22 through 27 of the bill, and 2) language eliminating the longstanding cap on noneconomic damages found on page 2, lines 32 through line 1 on page 3.

Should the bill be amended to remove these two provisions, MAMIC would have no position on this initiative.

Very truly yours,



Bryson F. Popham

cc: Jeane Peters, President, MAMIC