



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

March 6, 2020

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

**RE: HB 1030 Employers of Ex-Offenders – Liability for Negligent Hiring or Inadequate Supervision – Immunity SUPPORT**

Dear Delegate Davis:

The Howard County Chamber is a 720-member organization that works to foster a healthy economic climate for businesses and enhanced quality of life for residents. We do this by advocating for policies that spur private investment and employment opportunities. We know that when men and women are gainfully employed, many of our societal ills decrease.

Whether it is stigma, chance of recidivism, workplace risk and/or corporate culture, employers are reluctant to hire ex-offenders. Others are prohibited from hiring ex-offenders by law or contract. While some companies shy away from ex-offenders, there are a host of industries that do not. Yet, these businesses often do not hire non-violent ex-offenders because they believe “their insurance will not permit it.” What they really mean is that they are leery of taking the risk of being sued for knowingly hiring an ex-offender. Sadly, no one can blame them, considering our litigious environment. For individuals with a criminal past, the ability to secure employment has proven to be extremely difficult. This ultimately leads to an unstable environment filled with limited job options.

In reviewing HB 1030, the Howard County Chamber believes we have an opportunity to truly assist those men and women who have paid their debts and would like to contribute positively to society if given the chance. We are pleased to see this bill eliminate the risk to certain important employers for knowingly hiring ex-offenders. For the reasons stated above, we request a “Favorable Vote” on HB1030.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leonardo McClarty'.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE  
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber