



**Maryland Joint
Legislative Committee**

February 24,2020

The Voice of Merit Construction

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TO: ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: H.B. 839- FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM
POSITION: OPPOSE

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) opposes H.B. 839 which is before you today for consideration. The bill establishes a daunting program which will provide up to 12 weeks of benefits for employees to deal with a variety of family situations defined in the legislation.

The bill indicates that beginning on January 1, 2021, each employee, employer and self-employed individual participating in the program shall contribute to the fund. How can anyone confidently vote on this bill without knowing how much it is going to cost both the employee and the employer in terms of administering the program?

Definition of employer in the bill states “a person or governmental entity that employs at least one individual in the State”. This is a very broad definition and could include thousands of firms who are not located in Maryland but have employees working in the State.

We do not believe that any real discussion of the bill can take place until everyone knows how the program is going to be funded. The bill requires the Secretary to develop regulations which will answer some of the questions but not currently available to evaluate the total impact of the legislation.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on H.B. 839

Robert Zinsmeister, Director
Government Affairs

