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**BILL NO.:**            **HB 126**

**TITLE:**              Peace Orders - Workplace Violence

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Atterbearry

**COMMITTEE:**      Judiciary

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**              January 23, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 126 – Peace Orders - Workplace Violence. This bill would allow an employer to file a peace order on behalf of an employee and extends the right to shield related court documents to the petitioner and the petitioner’s employee.

2018 saw a record high 20,790 non-fatal injuries resulting from workplace violence, according to the National Safety Council, as well as 453 fatalities. 70.7% of non-fatal injury victims of workplace violence are women, and across the board these injuries disproportionately affect young adults ages 25-34. Though the past few years have brought to light many of the injustices that occur in the workplace, there is much work to be done to remedy them.

Baltimore County supports initiatives to improve the health, comfort, and safety of employees in the workplace. This bill would provide employers the opportunity to assist their employees in preventing acts of workplace violence by allowing them to file for peace orders on behalf of that employee. Everyone has a responsibility to one another to ensure that the workplace remains a safe environment, and this bill would empower employers to fulfill it.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 126. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.