



The Voice of Merit Construction

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TO: ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

**RE: H.B. 1199 – WORKERS’ COMPENSATION –
OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE PRESUMPTIONS – COVID–19**

POSITION: OPPOSE

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) opposes H.B. 1199 which is before you today for consideration. This bill would provide that certain covered employees who are suffering from the effects of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 are presumed, under certain circumstances, to have an occupational disease they suffered in the line of duty or course of employment and is compensable in a certain manner.

We have two essential concerns with the proposed legislation. First, work related injuries when the origins of the infection cannot be determined. Second, employees who may have contracted COVID-19 offsite due to unsafe behavior even when the employer has complied or exceeded CDC guidelines.

As an organization, ABC strives to protect our valued members and their employees. With that understanding, we have advised our members to limit the number of workers in small workspace areas such as job site elevators, trailers, and vehicles. In addition, we encourage our member companies to perform temperature checks prior to an employee’s entry into a worksite, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as shared tools, machines, vehicles and other equipment, handrails, ladders, doorknobs, and portable toilets.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC business members in Maryland, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on H.B. 1199.

Marcus Jackson, Director
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