



MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



UNFAVORABLE

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

February 16, 2021

RE: HB 375 – UNFAVORABLE – Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)

Dear Chair Davis and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) and the Maryland Asphalt Association (“MAA”) collectively represent tens of thousands of Marylanders who operate in the areas of transportation construction, production and engineering. Together, for nearly 100 years these organizations have served as the voice of the transportation construction industry. The mission of both MTBMA and MAA is to encourage, develop, and protect the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry, and also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.


HB 375 establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program and Fund to provide up to 12 weeks of leave due to specified personal and family circumstances. The bill requires all employers and employees to pay into the Fund, split 50/50 between the employer and the employee, based on a total rate of contribution set by the Secretary of Labor. There is no opt-out with this legislation; every employer who employs one or more persons must participate, as well as every employee. We are extremely concerned with the financial impact to our companies as well as our employees, particularly our small businesses. The effects of COVID-19 have been devastating to everyone. Throughout the last year, our members have made every effort to ensure employees have the ability to take time off of work when a medical issue arises either for themselves or their family. We do not think a mandate requiring everyone to pay into such a Fund is either fair or sensible.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 375.

Sincerely,



Michael Sakata
President & CEO, MTBMA



Marshall Klinefelter
President, MAA