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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 124**

**TITLE:**               Occupational Safety and Health Standards to Protect  
Employees - Aerosol Transmissible Diseases and COVID-19

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Valderrama

**COMMITTEE:**      Economic Matters

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             January 28, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 124 – Occupational Safety and Health Standards to Protect Employees - Aerosol Transmissible Diseases and COVID-19. This legislation establishes occupational and safety standards that would protect employees from exposure to aerosol transmissible diseases.

While the Coronavirus pandemic has hit every person in uniquely difficult way, in-person essential workers have been disproportionately devastated by this disease. This is abundantly clear in Baltimore County where the Latinx population, a group where many are employed in essential services, has had some of the highest case rates among any population. Not only have these essential workers been exposed to Covid-19, but they often unintentionally get their families and households sick. The state cannot continue to let these critically important workers go unprotected.

House Bill 124 would establish an occupational and health safety standard that would require employers to provide industry appropriate protection from exposure to communicable pathogens and create and practice an infectious disease control plan. It would also protect the rights of employees who feel like these standards are not being upheld in their place of work. This legislation is crucial for protecting the employees whose presence is essential to the operations of our state.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 124. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).