



Testimony offered on behalf of:
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

UNFAVORABLE:

HB 923 – Labor and Employment – Worker Safety and Health – Injury and Illness Prevention Program

Economic Matters Committee

March 5, 2021

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our opposition to **HB 923 – Labor and Employment – Worker Safety and Health – Injury and Illness Prevention Program**.

Section 1303 of the bill requires employers of all sizes to establish, implement, and maintain an injury and illness prevention program. Employers with 10 or more employees would be required to create a committee. These requirements are onerous and burdensome to employers, and are a complete overreach by Government into the operations of private business.

Most employers want to provide a safe environment for their workers and this legislation is unwarranted. Most have made good faith efforts following CDC and Maryland guidance to implement safety protocols during the current pandemic. This bill makes the assumption that employers are not looking out for the best interests of their employees. There may be a few bad actors out there but that does not mean all employers should be penalized and burdened with these additional requirements.

Maryland's job creators cannot reasonably be expected to comply with all of the mandates the Legislature is considering this session, especially now, as they struggle to juggle previously passed employer mandates and the operational and economic implications of COVID-19.

The Chamber respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE committee report on HB 923**.

Sincerely,

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