

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: HB 1326 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the **HB 1326 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require that employees be provided with earned sick and safe leave. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. This measure mandates not only that employees receive earned pay and sick leave but the mechanism under which that pay is accrued. Many employers in our industry have ad-hoc or verbal agreements with employees rather than a formal leave program and this measure would prevent those successful models from continuing.

This measure would also carry a large additional expense for smaller employees during a period in which the financial hardship for small businesses is unprecedented and many of them are operating at a loss or not at all. The measure allows for time off for a variety of reasons that do not allow for consistent planning or schedules that may have cascading effects on the workplace outside the job of one employee.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee