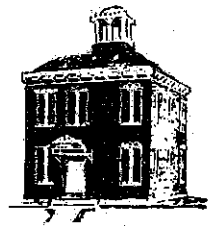


ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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February 26, 2021

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

Re: HB1326 – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave

Dear Chairman Davis:

On behalf of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, I respectfully request the Economic Matters Committee give an **Unfavorable Report** to House Bill 1326 – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave.

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce **opposes HB1326** as the proposed revisions will impose significant challenges and unintended consequences for businesses. Allegany County is not without tremendous workforce issues that would undeniably increase with the passing of this bill. A number of concerns exist within the proposed policy revision, including increased earned and paid sick leave, the expansion of the definition of a “family member,” and the inability for the employer to require documentation of leave.

These revisions are well-intended to provide employees with added safety and protections during a health emergency, however, the proposal generates further negative consequences for Maryland businesses. Like many proposed revisions to the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act before it, there are few provisions that would aid in the prevention or elimination of abuse or fraud. In a community with a significant number of small- to mid-sized businesses, a lack of exemptions will have a devastating impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Juli R. McCoy
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
House Economic Matters Committee Members
Western Maryland Delegation