



## House Bill 375

### Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

February 16, 2021

#### Position: Oppose

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Economics Matters Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* opposes House Bill 375, which would establish a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. This program would be funded through shared contributions by employees and employers.

Foodservice businesses are struggling to recover from the devastating financial impact of COVID-19. Our industry has also been burdened with higher labor costs associated with Maryland's sick/safe leave law and annual minimum wage increases phased in through 2026. Many foodservice businesses also had to switch to costlier carryout food containers when the new polystyrene foam ban took effect last year.

Our industry simply cannot afford piling on yet another mandate that increases the cost of doing business, particularly when we haven't had time to recover from so many other financial hardships.

For these reasons, we oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melvin R. Thompson".

Melvin R. Thompson  
Senior Vice President  
Government Affairs and Public Policy