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Dear Delegate Davis and distinguished members of the Economic Matters Committee:

My company, Tayjor-Med, Inc. dba Med-Electronics is an employer of 25 people in Prince Georges County. Our company provides service and sales of medical equipment to doctors and clinics in the DC/Baltimore region and as such, by current definition, my employees would be considered essential workers. I have been made aware of HB0581 and I know the purpose of the bill is, in theory, an effort to reward and/or give options to those employees who are considered essential. However, as a small business, if the bill is passed, we would not be able to provide the items proposed such as Hazard Pay, Financial Assistance or Healthcare, and the right to refuse work. The financial impact would cause a burden that we would most likely not be able to recover from.

Some in the legislature may feel that we could pass on the cost of this to our customers and I can assure you that in most cases, this would not be possible. Our customers: doctors, clinics, and other healthcare professionals, are already stressed financially and they would most likely forgo the required service and/or the purchase of new medical equipment that could serve their patients better. In summary: my company cannot afford the financial impact that HB 581 would impose on us and most other small businesses such as healthcare professionals. I strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 581, because now is not the time to implement new, costly and complex employer mandates. If passed, the bill would create a number of new, costly, and onerous requirements for Maryland job creators such as myself.

I'm also concerned because the definitions of emergency, essential employer and essential employee contained within the bill are extremely broad and overly ambiguous. They go well beyond the scope of the public health emergency we are currently navigating as a result of COVID-19. Nearly every type of employer in Maryland is included in the scope of the legislation, regardless of risk-profile. In fact, 15 industry sectors that contain a combined total of 76 categories are defined as essential employers in the legislation.

The costs of this bill would be devastating to Maryland's job creators, who are already struggling with a global pandemic and compounding financial implications of other state mandates like increased minimum wage and paid sick and safe leave. Maryland's employers cannot reasonably be expected to comply with the broad and unwell defined mandates contained within House Bill 581, especially when they continue to overcome the operational and economic implications of COVID-19.

Please oppose this legislation that will ***kill small businesses in Maryland.***

Dean G. Clark (Greg)
President