

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
3 East Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: SB 813 Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – COVID-19

Dear Chairwoman Kelley:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in **SB 813 Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – COVID-19**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would create a presumption that essential workers contracted COVID-19 on the job and would make them automatically eligible for workman's compensation claims in the event of a diagnosis. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. There is not way to determine with any accuracy where an employee contracts COVID-19 nor can employers account for what safety behaviors employees engage in outside of their other duties. It is unfair to put the burden on insurance claims and drive up premiums for employers when they cannot be established as the party at fault for the contraction of the disease.

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 Senate Finance Committee