



**HEARING DATE:** February 16, 2021

**BILL NO/TITLE:** HB0375 - Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)

**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters

**POSITION:** **Oppose**

The Maryland motorcoach industry is vital to Maryland providing essential transportation services connecting rural communities, relieving congestion in urban centers with commuter operations, transporting children to school and educational events, and serving as the only means of transportation for travelers on fixed incomes or without cars. We also play a key role in emergency and defense planning. In times of hurricanes and other natural disasters, motorcoaches are a critical to helping evacuate residents, particularly senior citizens. We constantly support our U.S. military by moving troops and their equipment for deployments and training around the country, similar to what we did at the recent inauguration of our 46<sup>th</sup> president, and our industry plays a direct role in defending the U.S. Capitol and Maryland.

Motorcoaches are essential to Maryland's transportation, supporting the students, military, commuters and residents alike. Now more than ever, the flexibility and reliability of our services should be protected. As we witnessed at the onset of the pandemic private motorcoach carriers' services came to an abrupt halt and their wheel's stopped rolling decreasing their annual revenue by almost 95%. We need to roll again to remain in business.

Now clearly is not the time to implement House Bill 375, because it will be yet one more costly employer mandate our members can ill afford as they struggle to overcome a global pandemic with little to no business due to statewide shutdowns of tourism attractions, restaurants, etc. where their groups go.

Can we count on you to oppose this dangerous legislation and protect us as Maryland Small Businesses?

**About Maryland Motorcoach Association(MMA):** MMA represents the interests of the Privately Owned Maryland Motorcoach Operators across the state and industry together with our tourism partners, destination marketing organizations, small businesses, coach manufacturers, and equipment suppliers all of whom are counted among our members we strive to promote the efficient and secure transportation of Marylanders across the state and throughout the country transporting students, seniors, military, church groups, commuters, and a multitude of other Marylanders as they go about their day to day business of working and enjoying life in Maryland.

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