

March 4, 2021

Senator Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB721 – Procurement - Small Business Reserve Program - Administration and Application**

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our 500-member businesses and more than 45,000 employees in Montgomery County, The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce is in **Support of SB721 – Procurement - Small Business Reserve Program - Administration and Application**. This bill would codify the Governor’s 01.01.2021.01 Executive Order to increase small business participation in state procurement. The bill eliminates the bottom \$50,000 threshold, so that any purchases or contracts up to \$500,000 shall be designated for the Small Business Reserve program.

This bill is another way to help small businesses, and it also asks the Small Business Reserve Program to provide technical training where needed, and to collect data regarding the State’s utilization of small business reserve.

At a time when businesses are trying to survive through a worldwide pandemic that has had a major impact throughout the state, the small business reserve program as defined in SB721 will be a perfect way in which to grow our small businesses and survive.

We want to thank Senator Hester and Delegate Qi for their sponsorship of this important legislation and ask members of this committee for a **FAVORABLE** report. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



Allie Williams  
President & CEO