

February 4, 2021

Senator Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
Maryland State Senate
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0064 - Unemployment Insurance-Earned Rating Record-Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman 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 SB0064** – Unemployment Insurance-Earned Rating Record-Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19. This bill would require the Secretary of Labor to waive the charging of unemployment insurance benefits paid to a claimant against the earned rating record of an employer during the state of emergency declared by the Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This would terminate within one year after the state of emergency ends.

During this difficult and unprecedented time, and when the total number of unemployment claims continue to grow (unemployment claims topped 50,000 in Maryland last week), this legislation can't come soon enough. When businesses start to get back up and growing, this reprieve in regards to the employer's experience rating will provide them the needed boost in order to succeed and afford to bring employees back to work.

We ask you for a **FAVORABLE** report and thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



Allie Williams
President & CEO