



City of Havre de Grace

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February 25, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Oppose - SB 710 – State and Local Government and Private Employers –
Teleworking**

Madam Chair and The Honorable Members of the Finance Committee:

The City of Havre de Grace opposes Senate Bill 710. If passed, the legislation would require a municipal government to establish a telework policy and, to the extent practicable, maximize the number of eligible employees participating.

The City of Havre de Grace has a workforce consisting of less than 140 employees, most of whom are in positions that perform essential functions not eligible for telework. City employees eligible for telework may do so currently under the City's telework policy implemented on an as-needed basis at the city administration's approval.

SB 710 does not identify any reason why a municipal government would need a permanent telework policy. While telework is appropriate under certain circumstances, there are many benefits to having staff working together on-site, the most important being the efficient delivery of public services.

While the City of Havre de Grace does not oppose telework, the City does oppose state government mandating how a municipal government operates without providing any justification and believes the decision to utilize a telework policy should remain with a municipality.

The City of Havre de Grace urges the Committee to give SB710 an unfavorable report.