

March 5, 2021

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

RE: SB756- Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – COVID-19
Position: OPPOSE

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 Opposition to **SB756- Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – COVID-19**. This bill provides that covered employees who are suffering from the effects of COVID-19 are presumed, to have the disease that was contracted in the line of duty or while under the course of employment and is compensable in a certain manner. It would require that an individual who is eligible for workers' compensation benefits provide a copy of a certain test or written documentation to the employer or insurer. This emergency Act will be applied retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect any claim for workers' compensation benefits filed on or after March 5, 2020

We oppose this bill as it creates an occupational disease presumption and unfairly shifts the burden to employers for a pandemic which is boundless. It seems questionable whether the presumption is fairly supported by the know science.

For these reasons, we ask for a **UNFAVORABLE** report and thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



Allie Williams
President & CEO