

MHILA
Maryland Hotel
Lodging Association

SB 728 – Oppose
Labor & Employment – Worker Safety & Health – Injury & Illness Prevention Program
Finance Committee
March 17, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Kelly and Members of the Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, we request an unfavorable report on SB 728 due to the overly burdensome and redundant regulations that the bill, if passed, would place upon our industry.

For decades, OSHA has meticulously overseen the health and welfare of employees within the workplace. Policies, procedures and protocols are in place to ensure a healthy work environment with a focus on employee safety. Guidance and regulation from OSHA is fluid and dynamic in nature; constantly being updated and revised. Furthermore, multiple mechanisms already exist for a) employers to inquire about safety policies; and b) employees to report any incidents or hazards that might potentially exist in the workplace.

Additionally, insurance carriers are extremely interested in the quality of the operation of the hotels within their portfolio, as their primary concern is to limit liability and exposure to costly claims. Most properties have annual audits and inspections by their carriers so that the carriers can verify certain policies, procedures and conditions exist. If any deficiencies are discovered, properties have a certain period of cure time to rectify and comply with the carrier's findings.

It is this dual pronged approach of checks and balances, from both the government sector (OSHA) and private sector (insurance carriers), that ensure a safe and healthy work environment exists for our employees.

Any additional requirements mandated by government in this regard would be superfluous, duplicative, and a waste of our members' valuable time and extremely limited resources.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we oppose SB 728 and request an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Rohrer, CAE
President & CEO