

March 5, 2021

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

RE: SB813- 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 **SB813- Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – COVID-19**.

This emergency bill establishes an occupational disease presumption for employees with specified public safety and first responder and certain child care workers, education workers, essential workers, and health care workers that are suffering from the effects of COVID-19 and meet other specified requirements. The bill also makes technical and conforming changes related to new and existing occupational disease presumptions.

We oppose this bill as similar to SB756, 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 known science.

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

Sincerely,



Allie Williams
President & CEO