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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Richard A. Montgomery III
Director of Legislative & Governmental Relations

Date: **January 26, 2021**

Subject: **Senate Bill 210 - COVID-19 Claim –Civil Immunity**

Position: **Oppose**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) opposes **Senate Bill 210 – COVID-19 Claim – Civil Immunity**. Senate Bill 210 would provide immunity from civil liability for a COVID-19 claim to a person who acts in compliance with certain statutes, rules, regulations, executive orders, and agency orders, unless the person acted with gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing. Further, the bill would provide that certain deviations from certain statutes, rules, regulations, executive orders, and agency orders does not deny a person civil immunity provided under the Act.

While the MSBA believe that this measure is well-intended, we believe that the immunity provisions contained in the bill are overly broad and would serve to preemptively deny injured individuals potential redress through the legal system.

Accordingly, the MSBA opposes Senate Bill 210 and urges an Unfavorable Committee Report. Should you have any questions, please contact MSBA Legislative Director, Richard Montgomery at (410) 269-6464 or at Richard@msba.org