



Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

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HB508 COVID-19 Civil Immunity SUPPORT

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce represents 430 businesses in Upper Montgomery County. We are working with our members every day to ensure that they can stay in business during the significant economic downturn we are experiencing as a result of the pandemic.

In talking with our Chamber members, one of their top concerns is to keep their employees and their customers safe and healthy. They are actively seeking best practices in health and safety and making sure that they comply with all federal, state, and local regulations. In Montgomery County, the Chambers of Commerce have partnered with the County to implement “Mask Up MoCo” to help educate the community as to the health and safety requirements that our businesses have implemented.

Providing immunity from civil liability for a covid-19 claim for persons (employers) who are in compliance with statutes, rules, regulations, executive orders, and agency orders is paramount for our businesses. In order to protect our economy, protect our jobs, protect people’s paychecks, our employers need to have some protection against civil actions. This will become even more important as we, one day, begin to open up.

As an employer, I have personally read all the requirements necessary for having staff in the office. I have a covid-19 health and safety policy for the office, which all employees have signed; we have specific cleaning protocols that we follow when staff are present; we have the County’s mask requirements and the county reopening requirements prominently displayed in the office. My chamber members are doing the same. Employers who are in compliance with the various requirements need this assurance of civil immunity related to covid-19 claims.

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on **HB508**.

CONTACT:

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