



520 West Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201
410-685-7878 | 800-492-1964
fax 410-685-1016 | tdd 410-539-3186
msba.org

To: Members of the House Judiciary Proceedings Committee

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

Date: February 3, 2021

Subject: **House Bill 508 - COVID-19 Claim –Civil Immunity**

Position: **Oppose**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) opposes House **Bill 508 – COVID-19 Claim – Civil Immunity**. House Bill 508 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. Further, we find that the retroactive application of this measure would strip injured individuals of rights that they currently possess and is seeking justice.

Accordingly, the MSBA opposes House Bill 508 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