

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Luke H. Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB 508 (COVID-19 Claim – Civil Immunity)

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding HB 508 COVID-19 Claim – Civil Immunity. MBIA Supports the Act in its current version.

This bill provides immunity from civil liability for a Covid-19 claim to a person who acts in compliance with statutes and rules regarding COVID -19 precautions unless that person acted with gross negligence or with the intent to commit intentional wrongdoing.

MBIA supports the efforts to limit liability for unintentional violations of COVID-19 efforts. Due to the ongoing pandemic and the fluctuating rates of infection public policy regarding COVID-19 has changed multiple times of necessity as lawmakers gain new information and the pattern and spread of the virus becomes more predictable. This information is often difficult to immediately convey to individuals and institutions that it effects and that makes it difficult even for people that want to remain in compliance to do so. It is important that people have the opportunity to learn how to apply public safety measures in their own lives without the fear of punishment for minor mistakes. It incentivizes people to do their best to maintain public health while eliminating part of the undercurrent of fear and hardship that the pandemic has unfortunately been so successful at fostering.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Judiciary Committee