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**To:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

**Date:** March 3, 2021

**Subject:** **House Bill 1084 - Catastrophic Health Emergencies - Immunity from Civil Liability**

**Position:** **Oppose**

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The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) opposes **House Bill 1084 - Catastrophic Health Emergencies - Immunity from Civil Liability**. House Bill 1084 would provide that any individual, corporation, business trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, governmental agency, public corporation, or any other legal entity is immune from civil liability for a COVID-19 claim if any of those entities acts in compliance with certain statutes, rules, regulations, executive orders, and agency orders, unless the entity has 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 though the legal system. Further, we find that the retroactive application of this measure would strip injured individuals of rights that they currently possess is seeking justice.

Accordingly, the MSBA opposes House Bill 1084 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](mailto:richard@msba.org)