

## Bryson F. Popham, P.A.

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February 1, 2021

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 508 COVID-19 Claim - Civil Immunity - FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (MAMIC) in support of HB 508.

MAMIC is comprised of 12 mutual insurance companies that are headquartered in Maryland and neighboring states. Approximately one-half of MAMIC members are domiciled in Maryland and are key contributors and employers in their local communities. Together, MAMIC members offer a wide variety of insurance products and services and provide coverage for thousands of Maryland citizens. Although some mutual insurance companies may be large organizations, MAMIC members tend to be small and medium-sized businesses.

MAMIC companies are local insurance providers to their customers. They are close to the customer, and they are small businesses providing their essential services throughout the state of Maryland. MAMIC members know, better than most of us, what the cost of a wave of COVID 19 litigation would be. Even if unsuccessful, the litigation costs alone would be unsustainable.

MAMIC strongly believes that legislation like HB 508 is the only way that our society can measure the right of any citizen to compensation caused by the negligence of others against the likelihood of success of such claims based on exposure to COVID 19. For this reason, MAMIC respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 508.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryson Popham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bryson" and last name "Popham" clearly legible.

Bryson F. Popham

cc: Jill Showalter, MAMIC President