

February 7, 2022

The Honorable President

State Capitol

100 State Cir,

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB0403 – Paige Johnson – Minority Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs are in Favor

Dear President:

My name is Paige Johnson, and I am a minority small business owner and advocate in the Maryland business community for all business owners and entrepreneurs who resides in your district. I support SB0403 because during the hardest times of my journey in business, even at the young age of 24, I recall not fully understanding the annual fee to submit my Annual Report and even borrowing money to get it paid.

As I grew more businesses and began to advise others, I saw that the most difficult thing to understand for these new business owners (my clients) was how and why they had to pay an annual fee to submit a form online, and that it was not even considered a tax. This fee provides barriers to new business owners and entrepreneurs, who are expected to take major losses in their first few years of business. The COVID-19 pandemic has not made this fact any less true. Also, due to lack of small business education on the Annual Report, the fees go unpaid and unnoticed by already struggling Business Owners and Entrepreneurs who lack the time or money to gain business advisory services. Most of my small business clients struggle to pay this Annual Report fee and when their business status becomes a requirement for funding or a specific program, they are forced to pay years in backed up fees to gain Good Standing.

I am in support of SB0403 because it drives small business in the State of Maryland, and there is a lot of good business to be made. I am in support of SB0403 because it is true relief for Small Business Owners who file their Annual Report electronically in the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Paige Johnson
2105 Windham Pl
Silver Spring, MD 20902