

SB 782- Workgroup on the Post–COVID–19 Crisis Economic Transition

FAVORABLE VOTE

Undoubtedly the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted communities across the country including those in Maryland. Besides wreaking havoc on families, it also severely impacted the workplace. Without government intervention, many industries would have gone out of business leaving the families of their employees decimated.

The pandemic also brought to the forefront various irregularities and inequalities around gender, ethnic, and age lines. It also shed light on lesser publicized industries like childcare that without them, many employees could not return to work leaving employers unable to fulfill orders and service customers. These concerns notwithstanding, the pandemic also reminded us of the difficulties minority and women owned businesses have deploying capital. While the remnants of the pandemic are beginning to subside, supply chain issues are further disrupting our economic recovery.

For the reasons outlined above, the Howard County Chamber request a favorable vote on SB782, which if passed would establish a short-term workgroup to study and draft recommendations to adjust our economic development strategies brought about by the Covid pandemic. It is hope that this workgroup comprised of elected officials and business leaders will devise plans, strategies, and policy proposals that will enable us to respond to future economic downturns and public health crisis in a timelier and even more impactful way.