

Dear Senator Brian J. Feldman & Senator Cheryl C. Kagan,

My name is Joshua Hoffman, and together my wife and I own our house located in Hagerstown, MD. Together we strongly support the Bill SB0429 to increase the bond from for contractors in the state of Maryland.

With the cost of construction materials and the overall price of projects being done in recent years it's nearly impossible to get a pool built for under \$100,000.00. Most families take out a loan or remortgage their house as we did to be able to afford to have the opportunity to put in a pool at their residence to enjoy time with family and friends.

The issue of the current Bill for contractors in the state of Maryland provides you with protection up to \$30,000.00 per family and up to an overall guarantee fund of \$100,000.00. In the situation that we just encountered, there are approximately 180 pools, give or take, that were partially completed, completed but damaged, done with major issues, or not completed at all. In the few times that I personally went down to visit Catalina Pool Builders for our pool, I met several other families dealing with the same issues as ourselves. If you look at their google reviews it's flooded with hundreds of comments from people experiencing awful circumstances. I personally reached out to the Maryland Home Improvement Commission when things started getting frustrating with the disappointment of seeing how little action was taken to help resolve my issue along with many others. I was told that even though there are twenty active complaints with this contractor at this time they do not want to shut them down due to individuals losing their jobs. In my own personal opinion, I feel like if their were better policies and procedures in place a lot of consumers just like myself could have had this situation minimized or avoided.

For the above mentioned reasons, I respectfully and without reservation urge the new Bill to allow better protection from bad contractors and to be there for consumers in the time of need. By increasing the amount from \$100,000.00 to \$250,000.00 will most likely allow everyone who submits a claim in this situation to be rightfully compensated and offer better protection for future Marylanders and going them the piece of mind knowing that their wonderful state advocates for them in a time of need.

Sincerely,

Joshua Hoffman
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