

SB 795 - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Matthew Bohle

Position: FAV



Aphelion Cigar Lounge 410-721-1700
2510 Conway Road, Ste. 106, Gambrills 21054

Broadleaf Tobacco 410-315-8118
487 Ritchie Highway, #101, Severna Park 21146

Burnt Leaf 443-272-7206
487 Ritchie Highway, #101, Severna Park 21146

Cross Street Tobacco 410-752-9220
1103 Light Street, Baltimore 21230

Dan's Cigar Lounge 410-780-5959
8300-B Pulaski Highway, Rosedale 21237

Davidus Cigars. 301-865-1000
2134 Generals Highway, Annapolis 21401
1300 Bank Street, Baltimore 21231
1716 Liberty Road, Eldersburg 21784
9180 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City 21042 529
West South Street, Frederick 21701
25 Olney Sandy-Spring Road, Ashton 20861
10810 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills 21117
11632 Rockville Pike, Rockville 20852
15922 Shady Grove Road, Gaithersburg 20832 8925
Fingerboard Road, Urbana 21704
23 East Main Street, Westminster 21157 25
Allegheny Avenue, Towson 21204

Easton Cigar & Smokeshop 410-770-5084
6 Glenwood Ave, Easton 21601

Etch-Art Awards 410-202-6616
931 Mount Hermon Road, Salisbury 21804

Fire & Smoke Cigar Parlor 443-970-6634
6827 Loch Raven Blvd., Towson 21286

Leonardtwn Cigar 240-309-4108
40955 Merchants Lane #14, Leonardtown 20650

Main Street Cigar Company 410-734-4494
2217 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air 21015

Mount Vernon Tobacco 410-728-5669
221 W. Read Street, Baltimore 21201

Mt. Washington Cigar Co. 410-377-4711
5909 Falls Road, Baltimore 21209

Oakleigh Beach Tobacco 410-388-8080
702 Wise Avenue, Dundalk 21222

Office Cigar Lounge at QG 410-685-7428
31 S Calvert St, Ste 300, Baltimore 21202

Quartermasters Cigars 410-898-2134
880 Northeast St, Frederick 21701

Senor Cigars 410-524-2069
11805 Coastal Highway, Ocean City 21842
3314 Coastal Highway, Ocean City 21842

Signature Cigars 301-424-8833
1331 Rockville Pike, Rockville 20852
4919 Cordell Avenue, Bethesda 20814

Spartan Cigar Lounge 443-350-9808
128 East Pulaski Highway, Elkton 21921

The Book Center 301-722-8345
15 North Centre Street, Cumberland 21502

The Humidour Cigar Shoppe 410-666-3212
2 Sherwood Road, Cockeysville 21030

TinderBox #398 301-374-9100
2754 Crain Highway, Waldorf 20601

Titan Cigar 410-721-2944
2634 Chapel Lake Drive, Gambrills 21056

Tobacco Leaf 410-799-2094
7351 Assateague Drive, Jessup 20794

W. Curtis Draper Tobacconist 301-907-7990
4916 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda 20814

February 24, 2022

Favorable for SB 795 – Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages – Cigar Lounge License

Chair and members of the Committee,

The Premium Cigar Retailers Association of Maryland represents over 35 adult-only brick and mortar premium cigar specialty stores in the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter.

We write today as **Favorable on SB 795.**

The Premium Cigar Retailers Association of Maryland believes that adult consumers should be reasonably able to consume the products that they want in the manner that they would like. This includes being able to consume premium cigars and alcohol in the same venue.

Such an option provides another avenue for these Main Street shops to thrive - as with each passing year it continues to be more challenging to be a retailer. Enabling this option will help to preserve our main streets.

Last, several other jurisdictions already provide the opportunity to sell premium cigars and alcoholic beverages in the same venue, and there should be parity between the counties.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that this bill be favorably reported.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bohle and Obie Chinemere of RWL – 410-269-5066

SB 795 - Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV



SB0795/483626/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

23 FEB 23
08:35:32

BY: Senator Carozza
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 795
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 26, after “LOUNGE” insert “THAT IS A MEMBERS-ONLY ESTABLISHMENT”; after line 28, insert:

“(E) THE LICENSE HOLDER MAY NOT SELL FOOD THAT IS PREPARED ON-SITE.”;

and in line 29, strike “(E)” and substitute “(F)”.

On page 3, in line 1, strike “(F)” and substitute “(G)”.

SB 795 Testimony - Carozza_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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James Senate Office Building
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410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645
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MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 24, 2023

The Senate Finance Committee

**SB 795 – Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages – Cigar Lounge License
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you, Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and the rest of the members of the eminent Senate Finance Committee for allowing me to present Senate Bill 795 – Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages – Cigar Lounge License as amended.

This is a local bill that would establish a Class B-CL beer, wine, and liquor license in Wicomico County and authorize the Wicomico County Board of License Commissioners to issue the license for use in a cigar lounge and only to customers who are seated on the premises of the cigar lounge. As amended, this bill also would restrict Wicomico County cigar lounges from selling food that is prepared on site.

As you know, a cigar lounge is a specialty business designed to provide individuals with a place where they can smoke cigars to relax, network, and visit with other individuals who appreciate this traditional niche product. Cigar smokers tend to smoke less than your average cigarette smoker, viewing it as a leisurely activity perfectly suitable for a lounge atmosphere.

These cigar lounges already operate in Wicomico and throughout the rest of Maryland and are already exempt from the indoor smoking restriction as cigar lounges are a retail business. This bill would simply allow cigar lounges in Wicomico County to become more traditional clubs by enabling the sale of alcohol to be enjoyed on the premises.

Traditional cigars are a very niche product, and therefore, the establishment of cigar lounges would be limited. As an example, Anne Arundel County has roughly six times the population of Wicomico County and only supports two cigar lounges.

This is a local bill intended to support local job growth for our small businesses in Wicomico County. Smaller counties like ours depend on growing our small business community to maintain our Shore way of life.

I truly appreciate your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully ask for a swift and favorable report on SB 795.

Joint Letter of Opposition_ALA and AHA_Wicomico Co

Uploaded by: Aleks Casper

Position: UNF



Joint Letter American Lung Association and American Heart Association Senate Bill 795
Senate Finance Committee
February 17, 2023
Opposition

Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 795 Wicomico County-Alcoholic Beverages-Cigar Lounge License sponsored by Senators Carrozza and Mautz. The American Lung Association and the American Heart Association **strongly opposes** this bill as it would provide an exemption to Maryland's smoke-free law.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources.

As written, the proposed legislation significantly undermines the strong smoke-free workplace protections currently in place in Maryland. The proposed legislation allows for the establishment of Cigar Lounges which can also sell beer, wine and liquor in Wicomico County. This change would expand businesses that are exempt from the smoke-free law and allow indoor smoking.

This insertion of the ability to apply for both an alcohol and cigar license creates a significant loophole in indoor smoking protections and could allow more places within Wicomico County and in turn Maryland to permit smoking that previously did not. If passed the legislation would make it easier to exempt establishments in not only Wicomico County but in other parts of the Maryland from the smoke-free law which weakens decades of progress in preventing exposure to secondhand smoke.

Research has clearly demonstrated that there is no safe level of exposure to toxic secondhand smoke.¹ While ventilation or air purification systems are sometimes promoted as a way to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, ventilation cannot remove all secondhand smoke and does not purify the air at rates fast enough to protect people from harmful toxins. The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that even separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke. The only effective way to fully protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke is to completely eliminate smoking in indoor public spaces.²

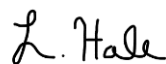
Secondhand smoke is also an occupational hazard for many workers. Job related exposure to secondhand smoke is a significant, but entirely preventable, cause of premature death among U.S. workers. The National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) and the US Surgeon General found that occupational exposure to secondhand smoke increases workers' risk of lung cancer and other diseases. Patrons were also found to have significantly elevated levels of a tobacco-specific lung carcinogen after a four-hour visit to a casino that allowed smoking.^{3 4} The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers states that the only way to eliminate indoor exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is to eliminate all indoor smoking activity.

The American Lung Association and the American Heart Association thank Maryland lawmakers for their continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Maryland and the desire to protect Marylanders from exposure to secondhand smoke. The American Lung Association and the American Heart Association **strongly opposes** the legislation before you, Senate Bill 795 and would encourage members of the subcommittee to vote no and provide an unfavorable report. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact either of us.

Sincerely,



Aleks Casper
American Lung Association
Director of Advocacy
202-719-2810
aleks.casper@lung.org



Laura Hale
American Heart Association
Director of Government Relations
336-480-4829
laura.hale@heart.org

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

² HHS, 2006.

³ Anderson KE, Kliris J, Murphy L, et al (2003). Metabolites of a Tobacco-Specific Lung Carcinogen in Nonsmoking Casino Patrons. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 12(12):1544-6.

⁴ Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. Smokefree Casinos. <https://nonsmokersrights.org/smokefree-casinos>



ACS CAN - 2023 SB 795 UNF - Wicomico Cigar Lounge

Uploaded by: John Hctor

Position: UNF



February 24, 2023

Senate Finance Committee

Senate Bill 795 – Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Cigar Lounge

License

Oppose

Please accept these comments on behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. As the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government.

We are writing to express opposition to SB 795 Wicomico County—Alcoholic Beverages—Cigar Lounge

License. As written, the proposed legislation significantly undermines the strong smoke-free workplace protections currently in place in Maryland. The proposed legislation creates a Class B-CL License in Wicomico County for cigar lounges to allow for the selling of alcohol. Currently, the Clean Indoor Air Act expressly restricts smoking in establishments licensed under the Alcoholic Beverages Article. MD. CODE ANN. HEALTH-GEN. §24-501.

Allowing this license creates a significant loophole in indoor smoking protections and would make it easier to exempt establishments from the smoke-free law which weakens decades of progress in preventing exposure to secondhand smoke and reducing tobacco use.

Reports from two different Surgeon Generals have found that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.^{i,ii} While ventilation or air purification systems are sometimes promoted as a way to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, ventilation cannot remove all secondhand smoke and does not purify the air at rates fast enough to protect people from harmful toxins. The Surgeon General has concluded that even separating people who smoke from people who don't smoke, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke. The only effective way to fully protect people from exposure to secondhand smoke is to completely eliminate smoking in indoor public spaces.ⁱⁱⁱ

Secondhand smoke should not be an occupational hazard for workers. Job related exposure to secondhand smoke is a significant, but entirely preventable, cause of premature death among U.S. workers. Business owners that allow smoking in the workplace increase their costs of doing business, while workers suffer health problems. Employers pay increased health, life, and fire insurance premiums, make higher workers' compensation payments, incur higher worker absenteeism, and settle for lower work productivity.^{iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix,x}

The National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) and the US Surgeon General found that occupational exposure to SHS increases workers' risk of lung cancer and other diseases.^{xi,xii,xiii} Patrons were also found to have significantly elevated levels of a tobacco-specific lung carcinogen after a four hour visit to a casino that allowed smoking.^{xiv,xv}

This year, 4,290 Maryland residents are expected to be diagnosed with lung cancer and it is estimated that over 1,950 will die of the disease. Maryland has been a national leader in protecting all of its citizens from the known, indisputable hazards of secondhand smoke in the workplace and public places. A statewide smoke-free law that

covers all indoor public places has been in place since 2008, and it's working! The law protects both workers and patrons at all business establishments throughout the state, including the state's existing casinos. This 100% smoke-free law has been good for health and good for business.

Allowing an exemption for cigar lounges in Wicomico County to allow for the sale of alcohol, seriously undermines the law, and most importantly forces workers to choose between their health and a paycheck. We urge you to reject this exemption and protect everyone's right to breathe clean, smoke-free air.

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. 2006. Atlanta, GA: HHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health (OSH).

ⁱⁱ HHS. How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease – A Report of the Surgeon General. 2010. Atlanta, GA: HHS, CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, OSH.

ⁱⁱⁱ HHS 2006

^{iv} Berman M, Crane R, Seiber E, et al (2014). Estimating The Cost of A Smoking Employee. *Tobacco Control* (23): 428-433.

^v Bunn III, WB, Stave GM, Downs KE, Alvir JMJ, & Dirani R. (2006). Effect Of Smoking Status on Productivity Loss. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 48(10), 1099-1108.

^{vi} Musich, S., Napier, D. and D.W. Edington (2001). The Association of Health Risks With Workers' Compensation Costs. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 43(6): 534-541.

^{vii} Halpern MT, Shikiar R, Rentz AM, and Khan ZM. (2001). Impact of Smoking Status on Workplace Absenteeism and Productivity. *Tobacco Control* 10:233-238.

^{viii} Dong XS, Wang X, & Largay J A. (2015). Occupational And Non-Occupational Factors Associated With Work-Related Injuries Among Construction Workers In The USA. *International Journal Of Occupational And Environmental Health*, 21(2), 142-150.

^{ix} Bondi MA, Harris J R, Atkins D, French, ME, & Umland B. (2006). Employer Coverage of Clinical Preventive Services in the United States. *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 20(3), 214–222. <https://doi.org/10.4278/0890-1171-20.3.214>.

^x U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). (2014). The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Diseases Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health. Printed with corrections, January 2014.

^{xi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Tobacco In the Workplace, Reports From The Surgeon General. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/tobacco/reportsfromthesurgeongeneral.html>

^{xii} HHS (2014).

^{xiii} Achutan C, West C, Mueller C., Boudreau Y, and Mead K (2009). Environmental and Biological Assessment of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure Among Casino Dealers. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2005-0201-3080.pdf>

^{xiv} Benowitz, N. L., Bernert, J. T., Foulds, J., Hecht, S. S., Jacob III, P., Jarvis, M. J., ... & Piper, M. E. (2020). Biochemical verification of tobacco use and abstinence: 2019 update. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, 22(7), 1086-1097.

^{xv} Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. Smokefree Casinos. <https://nonsmokersrights.org/smokefree-casinos>.

3b - SB 795 - FIN - MDH - LOO.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: UNF



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 24, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 795 –Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Cigar Lounge License - Letter of Opposition

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of opposition for Senate Bill (SB) 795 - Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Cigar Lounge License. SB 795 will establish a Class B-CL (cigar lounge) beer, wine, and liquor license in Wicomico County for use at a cigar lounge. This license will allow a cigar lounge to serve alcohol for on-site consumption while being exempted from the requirements of the Clean Indoor Air Act.

If enacted, this bill would undermine the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) and will result in increased exposure to secondhand smoke for Marylanders. In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly passed landmark legislation establishing the CIAA, which adopted minimum statewide protections from exposure to secondhand smoke in places of employment and public places, including, but not limited to, stores, restaurants, and bars. Exempted from these provisions were retail tobacco businesses in which the primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco products and the sale of other products is incidental.

This bill creates a loophole that undermines the CIAA's mandate to keep smoking out of bars and restaurants. Specifically, SB 795 does not establish any limits on the sale of alcohol at cigar lounges, and amends Health-General §24-505 to allow a business in Wicomico County to operate under a Class B-CL license where the primary activity is *not* the retail sale of tobacco products. In effect, SB 795 allows a “cigar lounge” to act as a restaurant or bar which is not subject to the CIAA.

While MDH rarely engages in local matters before the General Assembly, MDH is charged with enforcing the CIAA, and SB 795 would critically impair these efforts. Furthermore, the bill establishes a precedent that may lead to other jurisdictions and establishments requesting that they should also be permitted to allow smoking. Part of the success of the CIAA is the ability of MDH, with its partners at the Department of Labor and local health departments, to establish uniform and consistent standards for businesses and other public indoor spaces across the State.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,



Laura Herrera Scott M.D., M.P.H
Secretary

SB 795_RestaurantAssoc_Thompson_UNFAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Melvin Thompson

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 795
Wicomico County - Alcoholic Beverages - Cigar Lounge License

February 24, 2023

Position: **OPPOSE**

Madame Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the members of the *Restaurant Association of Maryland*, we oppose SB 795 which would allow for a cigar lounge license to be issued in Wicomico County for serving alcoholic beverages.

As you know, many of our restaurant bars accommodated smoking customers before Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act became law in 2007. Given that the General Assembly banned smoking in indoor areas open to the public, and at establishments that serve alcohol and other workplaces, it would be unfair to subsequently allow alcohol to be served at establishments that allow smoking under the retail tobacco business exemption of the Clean Indoor Air Act.

Under Section 24-501 of the Act's definition of "Indoor area open to the public," an indoor area of any establishment licensed or permitted under the Alcoholic Beverages Article of Maryland's Code for the sale or possession of alcoholic beverages is also covered under the smoking ban. This means that a cigar lounge/shop without an alcoholic beverage license could continue to allow smoking under the retail tobacco business exemption of the Clean Indoor Air Act, or prohibit smoking if it chooses to acquire an alcoholic beverages license. But it cannot enjoy the benefits of both under Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act.

Although we do not generally take positions on local alcohol bills, we are concerned about the precedent that passage of this legislation would create statewide. We have also opposed similar cigar lounge/shop local alcohol bills proposed for Frederick, Harford, and Prince George's Counties in recent years. None of those bills passed.

We recently learned that the bill sponsor will be offering amendments to address some of our concerns. We oppose this legislation as currently drafted. However, we would withdraw our opposition if the bill were amended to address our concerns.

Sincerely,

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President

3a - SB 795 - FIN - Cancer Council - LOC.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: UNF



February 24, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21401-1991

RE: SB 795 – Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages - Cigar Lounge License – Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Council on Cancer Control (the Council) submits this letter of concern for Senate Bill 795 (SB 795), titled “Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages – Cigar Lounge License”. SB 795, as drafted, would establish a license to allow for the joint sale and consumption of alcohol and cigars on the same premises in Wicomico County. This license would then operate as an exception to the Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA).

In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly passed the CIAA. The CIAA adopted minimum comprehensive and uniform statewide protections from exposure to secondhand smoke in places of employment and public places, including, but not limited to, stores, restaurants, and bars.

The CIAA defines “smoking” to include “the burning of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other substance that contains tobacco.” The CIAA further defines “indoor area open to the public” to include “an indoor area of any establishment licensed . . . for the sale of alcoholic beverages.” With certain exceptions, the CIAA unequivocally prohibits “smoking” in “an indoor area open to the public.”

The Council is concerned that SB 795 erodes the protection of the CIAA. Indeed, based upon the language highlighted above and the proposed amendment to the CIAA, SB 795 will effectively eliminate current protection from second-hand smoke emitted by cigars in bars and restaurants located in Wicomico County. Moreover, if passed, SB 795 would serve as precedent for other Maryland counties to replicate this legislation, which would further undermine the CIAA. Additionally, the Council is concerned that future legislation could extend the license contemplated by SB 795 to other types of tobacco products.

Unquestionably, the CIAA has reduced exposure in Maryland to the carcinogens of second-hand smoke. Further, there is a clear causal relationship between the carcinogens of second-hand smoke and lung cancer, and links between secondhand smoke and other cancers.

While the Council usually does not comment on bills unique to specific counties, SB 795 seeks to reverse protections of the CIAA and set a precedent for further rollbacks. As the State Council is tasked with identifying policies to reduce cancer burden in Maryland, the Council submits this letter of concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Cullen, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kevin Cullen, MD
Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control