



February 28, 2023

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 1152: The Entrepreneurial Equity Act**

Dear Committee Members:

The Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce would like to provide some comments in support of HB 1152, the Entrepreneurial Equity Act.

It has been said many times, "small business is the backbone of the US economy". A quick look at some statistics will verify this statement. There are 28.2 million businesses in the United States that have less than 20 employees and they employ over 50 million people. The numbers are very similar here in Anne Arundel County where 90% or 18,700 of all businesses have less than 20 employees.

Starting a small business is one of the most challenging things a person can do. You must have a desirable product or service and you must find customers who want to buy it. You have to generate enough revenue to cover operating costs and most importantly---you must meet payroll. In addition to the generating revenue and covering expenses, a small business owner must pay a wide range of local, state and federal taxes and fees. Not to mention all the various government rules and regulations they must follow, many of which are being updated and new ones added.

New businesses are a vital part of Maryland's future since they create jobs for our citizens and provide tax revenue for every level of government. HB 1152 seeks to waive certain license and registration fees for early stage businesses and direct a small percentage of funding from several existing economic development and financial assistance programs to early stage businesses.

Whenever there is an opportunity for the General Assembly or other levels of government to enact legislation that will support entrepreneurial activity is should be warmly received and implemented. Particularly when there is little or no financial impact.

The Chamber encourages members of the Ways and Means Committee to vote HB 1152 out of Committee and move forward for a vote before the full House.

Moving Forward,

*Mark Kleinschmidt*

**Mark Kleinschmidt**  
President/CEO

