PAUL D. CORDERMAN Legislative District 2 Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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Senate Finance Committee Chair Pamela Beidle Vice Chair Katherine Klausmeier 3 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 750 – Labor & Employment – Workers' Compensation – Exceptions to Exclusivity of Liability

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 750. In June of 2022, the Washington County Community suffered a tragic loss when Mark Alan Frey, Charles Edward Minnick, and Joshua Robert Wallace were gunned down and murdered at their workplace by a disgruntled employee. The shooter fled the scene, only to be apprehended following a shootout with Maryland State Police Officers where State Police Detective Sergeant Phillip Martin was shot and wounded.

Fast forward to April of 2023. The families of the three murder victims were informed that this killer would not receive any prison time for his confessed crimes. Instead, he was deemed not criminally responsible for his actions and as such, would be committed to Clifton T. Perkins Psychiatric Hospital. The victims' families were then advised that if this murderer was found to no longer be a threat or a danger to himself or others, he could be eligible for release without any rehabilitation in a state correctional facility.

The families of the victims feel that there were plenty of alarming and disturbing warning signs leading up to this horrific incident. Additionally, they feel that the leadership of Columbia Machine did not do enough to prevent this from happening when concerns were brought forth. Workplace negligence was suspected.

SB 750 if passed would allow a surviving spouse, child or dependent of a deceased employee to bring a claim for compensation and bring an action for damages against the employer if the covered employee is killed as the result of suspected deliberate intent. In this very tragic situation, the families of the victims deserve to bring their concerns before the Judiciary and have a Judge determine the validity of those claims.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 750.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Corderman

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