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NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – [www.NFIB.com/Maryland](http://www.NFIB.com/Maryland)

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: February 20, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE SENATE BILL 666** – Human Relations – Discrimination by a Place of Public Accommodation

Founded in 1943, NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, and nearly 4,000 here in Maryland, we work to protect and promote the ability of our members to grow and operate their business.

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB opposes Senate Bill 666 as currently drafted – legislation expanding the remedies available for discrimination by a place of public accommodation.

NFIB has been very involved with this piece of legislation over the years. NFIB did not oppose HB579 as it passed the House of Delegates in 2020. That was due to the collaborative efforts of the stakeholders to get the bill into a posture that worked for all.

We urge the committee to consider amending SB666 so that it is in the same posture as HB368 (its crossfile). HB368, as approved by the Health and Government Operations Committee, reflects the language from 2020 plus some minor changes.

For these reasons, **NFIB opposes SB666** as introduced and requests an unfavorable report. Instead, NFIB urges the committee to adopt the changes made to its crossfile, HB368, in the House.