



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

*In Opposition to
House Bill 1177—Landlord and Tenant—Tenant Repair and Maintenance Complaint Hotline--
Establishment
February 28, 2025
House Environment and Transportation Committee*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 600 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on House Bill 1177—Landlord and Tenant-Tenant Repair and Maintenance Complaint Hotline--Establishment.

House Bill 1177 requires the Attorney General to establish a toll-free hotline for tenant complaints related to repair and maintenance issues. It also allows tenants to make these complaints anonymously. We fear this could lead to frivolous or malicious complaints. Furthermore, many local jurisdictions, including Montgomery County, already have programs in place for tenants to report maintenance issues. Therefore, this statewide hotline could duplicate existing services, leading to inefficiencies. Lastly, this bill does not require tenants to reach out to landlords/property owners, first. This, we believe, is often the easiest way to get repair and maintenance issues resolved.

For these reasons, we would respectfully request an unfavorable report on House Bill 1177.