

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show support for HB 1439, the Better Small Business Employee Benefit Act of 2025.

My wife and I have had a small business for 15 years and we will always be an advocate for the small business community.

This bill will allow small businesses to have options and access to affordable health care for their employees. Maryland is one of only three states that do not currently have a plan like this in place.

In a time when running a small business has never been more difficult, this would assist small businesses with the recruitment and retention of their employees. As has often been said, good help is hard to find and that has never been truer than it is today.

Over 60% of businesses with 50 employees or less do not offer health care for their employees and this bill would be of great help to their continued operation.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Kind regards,

Jeff Merritt

Minuteman Press – Salisbury

410-713-8940

jmerritt@minuteman.com