



Senate Bill 584 -- *Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death*
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 11, 2025
Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes Senate Bill 584 -- *Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death*.

Senate Bill 584 repeals limitations on noneconomic damages in civil actions for personal injury or wrongful death. Non-economic damages compensate injuries and losses that are not easily quantified by a dollar amount while economic damages can be calculated from documents or records, such as medical expenses and earnings.

MCCC is concerned about Senate Bill 584 and its potential impact on the state's business competitiveness. Limiting noneconomic damages is generally seen as beneficial for a state's business climate, particularly for small businesses that are more vulnerable in litigation involving such damages. Increased exposure and financial burdens from this bill could harm not only small businesses but also the overall perception of Maryland's business environment.

A positive business climate in Maryland can be measured in various ways, including its legal and tort environment. When businesses consider locations for expansion, the tort environment is a significant factor. Therefore, Maryland must ensure it remains competitive with neighboring and rival states in terms of tort climate, alongside other factors like taxation, regulations, education, and transportation infrastructure.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes Senate Bill 584 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

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