

**The Alliance**  
c/o Louis C. Fields  
Post Office Box 3014  
Baltimore, MD 21229

March 3, 2026

Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Senator Antonio Hayes,  
and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**Re: SB 924 — Establishment of a Chamber of Commerce Grant Fund**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

The Alliance supports SB 924/HB 1033 and its goal of promoting the growth and sustainability of small businesses across the State of Maryland. Strengthening small businesses is essential to the state's economic vitality.

On behalf of our members, we respectfully request consideration of the following amendments to SB 924:

**Amendment 1:**

Because an existing Maryland entity operates under the name "Maryland Chamber of Commerce," we recommend revising the legislation to refer to "Maryland-based Chambers of Commerce." This change would provide clarity and ensure that eligibility is clearly open to all qualified Maryland-based chambers that meet the program's criteria.

**Amendment 2:**

We recommend including a clear definition of the term "underrepresented individuals." Without a defined meaning, the term may be interpreted inconsistently across chambers that serve diverse business owners and communities.

SB 924/HB 1033 represents a major step toward supporting Maryland's small business community. We respectfully request a favorable report with the inclusion of these two amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

**Lou Fields**