



**CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

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## **House Bill 1360 - Ethics Law – Lobbyist Reporting Requirements Position: Favorable with Amendment**

On behalf of Carrington & Associates, LLC, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 1360. At the outset, I would like to thank the bill Sponsor for being so gracious with her time to discuss the concerns raised by small, independent lobbying firms such as mine. Those conversations were constructive and reflected a thoughtful effort to ensure that the legislation achieves its intended transparency goals without creating unintended burdens.

Carrington & Associates, LLC initially opposed this legislation. The current reporting system administered by the Maryland State Ethics Commission is already thorough, and the additional reporting requirements contemplated in House Bill 1360 could create significant administrative burdens for small firms with limited staff capacity.

However, we believe a reasonable and balanced path forward exists through a targeted amendment. Specifically, we respectfully request that the legislation be amended to exempt registered lobbying firms that reported less than \$250,000 in total compensation during the previous six-month reporting period. This threshold would ensure that the additional reporting requirements are focused on larger firms with the administrative infrastructure to manage expanded disclosure obligations, while avoiding disproportionate burdens on smaller independent practices.

Many small lobbying firms operate with minimal administrative support, and additional reporting mandates can require significant time and resources that would otherwise be devoted to client representation and compliance with existing ethics requirements.

This amendment preserves the transparency objectives of House Bill 1360 while recognizing the operational realities faced by smaller firms. It represents a balanced approach that strengthens public confidence in the reporting system without overburdening those with the least administrative capacity.

With the adoption of this amendment, Carrington & Associates, LLC supports House Bill 1360.

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