



House Bill 476 -- *Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death*
House Judiciary Committee
March 4, 2026
Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes House Bill 476 -- *Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death*.

House Bill 476 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 House Bill 476 and its potential impact on Maryland's business competitiveness. Placing limits on noneconomic damages is widely viewed as supportive of a strong business climate, especially for small businesses that are more vulnerable to large and unpredictable awards in litigation. Expanding exposure and financial liability, as proposed in this bill, could negatively affect small businesses and contribute to a broader perception that Maryland is a less business-friendly state.

Maryland's overall business climate is shaped by many factors, including its legal and tort environment. When companies evaluate locations for growth or relocation, the fairness and predictability of the tort system is a major consideration. To remain competitive with neighboring and peer states, Maryland must ensure that its tort climate, along with key areas such as taxation, regulatory structure, education, and transportation infrastructure, supports long-term economic growth and investment.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 476 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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