



**LETTER OF OPPOSITION ON BEHALF OF  
MARYLAND TOURISM COALITION**

**IN OPPOSITION OF SB 742 Labor and Employment - Fair Recruitment and Transparency Act  
Senate Finance Committee - February 27, 2020**

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and committee members:

My name is Kristin Hanna, Legislative Chair of the Maryland Tourism Coalition, a 50-year old organization that represents the various services, attractions, organizations and accommodations that make up the State's Industry. On behalf of our 1,000+ members, I would like to express our opposition of SB742.

Tourism is extremely important to Maryland's economy! It creates 150,000 (and growing) jobs and is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest industry in the state. Visitors to Maryland spend nearly \$18.1 billion in Maryland each year and they generate close to \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes. Without tourism in the state of Maryland, each household would pay \$1,140 more in local taxes.

We recognize the bill tries to correct a real issue concerning foreign labor abuses and we support that initiative. However, the bill in current form is detrimental to the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. This program supports many Maryland tourism businesses, especially over the summer and is intended to be a cultural exchange program. Passing this bill in current form would prohibit this program and be devastating for the industry as they staff for the busy summer months.

On behalf of the Maryland Tourism Coalition, we respectfully request that you oppose SB 742.

Sincerely,

*Kristin Hanna*

Kristin Hanna  
MTC Legislative Chair and Board Member