



Maryland Motor Truck Association

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HEARING DATE: March 2, 2021

BILL NO/TITLE: **House Bill 1326: Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave**

COMMITTEE: House Economic Matters Committee

POSITION: **Oppose**

Maryland Motor Truck Association urges the Economic Matters Committee for an unfavorable report on HB1326. The small businesses that move Maryland's economy cannot continue to be burdened with additional mandated benefits that will only serve to disrupt the supply chain and financially strain those companies struggling to stay afloat.

In 2020 over 3,100 trucking companies closed their doors. To put that in context, in 2019, approximately 1,000 trucking companies shut down. On average, those 3,100 companies operated 16 trucks. The trucking industry is playing a vital role in the effort to end the pandemic. As witnessed at the onset of the pandemic, when supply chains are disrupted, supply shortages are quick to follow. This bill will disrupt and delay delivery of products during emergencies by:

- 1) Allowing unprecedented additional leave for workers during a public health emergency.
- 2) Expanding the eligibility for when such leave can be taken.
- 3) Allowing workers to take the leave for an additional 3 weeks after the public health emergency ends.

Trucks are the hub of Maryland's distribution wheel, playing a vital role in support of the state's manufacturing, agricultural, grocery and retail industries. Without trucks, there is no food on the grocery shelves, there are no medical supplies in hospitals, and there are no vaccines in pharmacies. Now more than ever, the resilience and integrity of our supply chain needs to be protected. That cannot be done with the massive escalation of benefits offered in HB1326.

For the reasons noted above, Maryland Motor Truck Association urges the Committee for an unfavorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000+ members, MMTA is committed to supporting and advocating for a safe, efficient, and profitable trucking industry across all sectors and industry types, regardless of size, domicile, or type of operation.

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