



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

**HOUSE BILL 908 – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS –
PAYMENT PLANS**

Sponsor – Delegate Carey

February 23, 2021

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports House Bill 908 which would require the Secretary of Labor to expand the existing unemployment insurance contribution payment plan provision. The Secretary would be required to offer a variety of payment plan options that would mutually serve the interests of the business owner and the Department.

Businesses are struggling to survive the economic crisis caused by the global pandemic and the restrictions imposed on business operations. Many businesses need additional flexibility to meet obligations such as unemployment insurance contributions. Allowing the Department to give more flexibility to business owners would provide much needed relief to business owners who are attempting to weather the pandemic and be positioned to recover once it has been contained and recovery is underway. In addition, the bill does not mandate the structure of the new plans, but allows the Department to work with businesses to determine the appropriate approach.

This bill is consistent with the GBC's *2021 Legislative Priorities* which advocate for inclusive policies and programs that strengthen economic competitiveness and job creation. Further, the GBC's report, [Gaining a Competitive Edge: Key Pillars for Economic Growth and Job Creation](#), calls for government leadership to unite with business as a partner. Creating a policy authorizing the Department of Labor to offer additional payment plan options to pay unemployment insurance premiums is a way for government to support businesses during these challenging times.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 908.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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