



NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St, Ste. 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – www.NFIB.com/Maryland

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: March 5, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 923** – Labor and Employment – Worker Safety and Health – Injury and Illness Prevention Program

Founded in 1943, NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, and nearly 4,000 here in Maryland, we work to protect and promote the ability of our members to grow and operate their business.

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB-Maryland opposes House Bill 923 – legislation that would require all employers with ten or more employees to establish a “health and safety committee” at their respective workplaces.

Our members appreciate the spirit of HB923 – to ensure the health and safety of all Maryland workers particularly as we battle a global pandemic. Indeed, small business owners are in large part going above and beyond current CDC, state, and local guidelines to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

However, the committees, record retention and subsequent reporting requirements envisioned in HB923 present a regulatory burden especially for our smallest businesses. Employers are already held to stringent workplace regulations via the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Division under the Department of Labor. The Division’s stated mission is:

[MOSH] works to improve the safety and health of Maryland’s working men and women in both the public and private sector by providing consultation services, outreach and educational programs, establishing partnerships, settling and enforcing standards, and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health.

HB923

The workplace committees established under HB923 are duplicative of MOSH's mission at the expense and cost of small business owners. It would exacerbate the already tangled web of regulations they deal with on a day-to-day basis.

Again, NFIB appreciates the sponsor's intent of ensuring the safety of all Maryland workers and our members share the sponsor's sentiment but for the reasons outlined above, **NFIB opposes HB923** and requests an unfavorable committee report.