

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis  
House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231,  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: HB 1171 Labor and Employment – Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal**

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 1171 Labor and Employment – Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would shield employees from being fired for refusing to be vaccinated when offered against COVID -19. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. Even if employers are shielded from liability, COVID-19 is an extremely communicable disease that has the potential to affect multiple employees or clients when working in proximity. Vaccination is the single most important step in defeating this pandemic and moving the economy back on to normal ground. Employers need the right to protect their employees and clients from health consequences of their decisions. Vaccination decisions are not made in a vacuum and can represent significant risks for many businesses. Employers should retain the right to choose whether or not they assume those risks.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee