



**SOUTHERN MARYLAND  
MINORITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**TO MAKE A COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL**



February 1, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce (SMMCOC) to voice our support for **SB197 – Procurement - Minority Business Participation Goals - Waiver**. As a regional voice for small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses across Southern Maryland, we are very in tune with the struggles and hardships that many business owners in our communities face. For the last seven years, we have sought to protect the interests of these local businesses while promoting development and innovation across Calvert County, Charles County, St. Mary's County and Southern Prince George's County. As an all-volunteer foundation, the Covid-19 pandemic has been exceptionally hard on the SMMCOC and our members. Nevertheless, we have seen the promising growth our region has made in recent years, and we are hopeful that the State of Maryland will continue to protect small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses.

This bill will assure the inclusion of MBE subcontracting goals on commodities contracts and on purchases that are made under the State's Emergency Procurement Act. This will result in the addition of millions of dollars to subcontracting opportunities for certified MBEs. While there were numerous certified MBEs listed in the MBE Directory who specialize in selling and distributing medical equipment and medical supplies, a very small percentage of MBEs were awarded PPE supply contracts by DGS Procurement Officers during the current pandemic because the state law, as it is currently written, does not mandate that MBE subcontracting goals be placed on purchases that are made under the Emergency Procurement Act. To protect the interest of MBEs and our members who wish to provide services and commodities during emergencies such as Covid-19, we are respectfully requesting the Committee's **FAVORABLE** consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

Doris Cammack-Spencer  
President/CEO