



Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau

2857 Davidsonville Road

Davidsonville, MD 21035

annearundelcountyfarmbureau@gmail.com

March 27, 2024

Senator Pam Beidle, Chairperson

Senate Finance Committee

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Favorable

HB1388/SB1182

Labor and Employment– Noncompete and Conflict of Interest Clauses– Veterinary and Health Care Professionals

Dear Senator Beidle,

I am writing on behalf of the Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau to request a favorable report from the Senate Finance Committee for HB1388/SB1182. The Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau represents over 800 farming families.

Agriculture is Maryland's leading commercial industry grossing over 8 billion dollars to the economy. With over 100,000 horses in Maryland, veterinary care is of the utmost importance to protect that valuable asset. Currently, the only Board Certified equine surgeon that accepted emergencies after hours is held to a non-compete contract. The veterinarian, Dr. CJ Caniglia is no longer able to provide those critical services to the area, forcing equine owners to transport sick or injured horses to Virginia and Pennsylvania to access their emergency health care. Time is critical on these cases and absolutely a determining factor in whether an outcome is positive or negative. Maryland needs this veterinarian.

Non-compete contracts are against the public interest to obtain the health care of their choice. It should not be a business that chooses where that care can be obtained. Doctors and veterinarians are in a shortage. Non-competes should not be an option to hold back the forward movement of our health care standards.

We ask that the Senate Finance Committee provide a favorable report on HB1388/SB1182 to allow the public to choose their health care professionals, not non-compete contracts.

Sincerely,

Christine Catterton

Christine Catterton, President
Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau