



February 8, 2024

Senate Finance Committee
Senator Pamela Beidle
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 0436 – Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations - Penalties and Referrals - Oppose

Dear Senator Beidle:

This bill would impose up to a \$5000 fine and 60 days jail time - in addition to existing penalties under various state and federal laws (Fair Labor Standards Act, Maryland Wage & Hour, Prevailing Wage Act, etc.). The federal Fair Labor Standards Act already includes possible jail time for violations.

It is not clear how these additional penalties will coordinate with existing penalties. It is also not clear how these additional penalties will actually lessen the likelihood a business will violate the laws. As is often the case, failure to properly *enforce* existing laws and regulations has much more impact on rates of violations than the statement of penalties.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of nearly 700 members, opposes this bill. We therefore request that you give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McMullin".

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate April Rose
Senator Justin Ready