



# POSITION STATEMENT

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE  
AND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL 968/SENATE BILL 753—LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – MARYLAND  
EARNED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE ACT**

**DONALD C. FRY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

**Position: Oppose**

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is an independent non-partisan regional business advocacy organization of more than 500 businesses—large, medium and small—educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 59-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability. It is an organization that prides itself on advocating for changes in public policies that strengthen the business climate while improving the quality of life.

The Greater Baltimore Committee **opposes** HB968/SB736 Maryland Earned Sick and Safe Leave Act.

HB968/SB736 requires an employer to have a sick and safe leave policy. Sick and safe leave policies are intended to be used for preventative medical care, matters dealing with domestic violence, assault, mental & physical illness, and other health emergencies.

Under HB968/SB736, employees would earn at least one hour of paid sick and safe leave for every 30 hours worked with a maximum yearly carryover of 56 hours and an annual use cap of 80 hours. The leave is unpaid if the employer has nine or fewer employees.

House Bill 968 is full of good intentions but it unfortunately creates additional employer costs of nearly \$165 million which could harm Maryland's business growth and competitive position.

These outcomes are inconsistent with one the GBC's eight core pillars for economic growth and job creation outlined in our report, *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*:

**Competitive costs of doing business.** Public policies must reflect a government predisposition to nurture business growth and to avoid arbitrarily or disproportionately imposing additional overhead upon the business sector.

For the reasons stated above, the Greater Baltimore Committee requests an **unfavorable report of HB968/SB736**.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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