

Senate Bill 11 -- Maryland Online Consumer Protection and Child Safety Act Senate Finance Committee January 26, 2022 Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes Senate Bill 11 – *Maryland Online Consumer Protection and Child Safety Act*.

MCCC is concerned that Senate Bill 11 will be costly and confusing for businesses, especially those that are small and do not have the infrastructure to address difficult new requirements. The bill's costs of compliance may be staggering for companies of all sizes, including small and startup businesses.

Senate Bill 11 imposes new requirements on businesses that are already struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses continue to adjust to the new realities of a pandemic economy, which now are exacerbated by supply chain issues, inflation, and a historically tight and evolving labor market.

While Senate Bill 11 seeks to address consumer protection, MCCC contends that this specific type of issue should be addressed on the federal level. Without federal action, differing consumer protection requirements in multiple states will lead to businesses contending with a patchwork of difficult and confusing obligations.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes Senate Bill 11 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.