



## HOUSE BILL 16

### Labor and Employment – Shift Breaks

March 3, 2009

#### **POSITION: Oppose**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the members of the *Restaurant Association of Maryland*, we oppose House Bill 16, which would require that employers with 50 or more employees provide shift breaks.

While most of our smaller restaurant members are exempted in this bill, this legislation would make compliance difficult for many of our larger restaurants, chain establishments and caterers. On busy nights when restaurant dining rooms are full, it would be difficult for most restaurants to ensure adequate service to customers if forced to comply with such a mandate. Moreover, most restaurant service staff arrive at about 4pm to work through dinner service. Requiring employers to provide staff with shift breaks after four hours would place most breaks in the middle of the busiest part of the night when most customers are having dinner.

For our industry, this legislation would interfere with our ability to maintain the best possible customer service. While such breaks may pose no significant problem in an office or manufacturing work environment, such a requirement will cause significant service issues for the hospitality industry.

For these reasons, we oppose HB 16 and request an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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