



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 216
OPPOSE**

**Ed., Health, &
Env. Affairs
Committee
2/25/10**

SB 216

Campaign Finance – Affiliated Business Entities – Attribution of Contributions

Bill Summary: This bill would attribute campaign contributions from two or more business entities as a single contribution if: (1) one business entity is a wholly-owned subsidiary of another; or (2) the business entities are owned or controlled by at least 80 percent of the same individuals.

Chamber Position: The Maryland Chamber opposes this bill. We feel that the bill will be cumbersome, if not impossible to administer in attempting to identify entities with overlapping ownership among the millions of businesses across the country. The State Board of Elections is not staffed to enforce this bill. No public policy is served by passing a bill that is unenforceable.

Additionally, the bill is not even handed as it omits associations from its attempt to combine entities. Because many unions are organized as associations, or locals of national organizations, this omission would give undue influence to such organizations in their ability to make campaign contributions.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber urges that this bill be given an unfavorable report.

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