



# MARYLAND DEMOCRATIC PARTY

October 26, 2017

Ms. Deborah Spence  
Administrator  
Open Meetings Compliance Board  
200 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Ms. Spence:

I am writing to file a complaint with the Open Meetings Compliance Board concerning a violation of Maryland's Open Meetings Act [Maryland General Code, General Provisions § 3-101 to § 3-501].

Specifically, the Committee on Paid Leave, established by Executive Order by Governor Larry Hogan,<sup>[1]</sup> has failed to properly follow the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. This entity is a public body clearly subject to the Open Meetings Act;<sup>[2]</sup> it has both more than one member and was created by public law<sup>[3]</sup> thus passing the first test of Open Meetings Act applicability.

The Committee on Paid Leave is not publicly advertising meetings on its website or any generally accepted State calendar web page. As such, it has failed to give "reasonable advance notice" of its meetings, failed to make meeting agendas publicly available in advance of such meetings, failed to hold its meetings openly, and failed to adopt minutes that are openly accessible to the general public.

In short, this body is meeting in secret and without giving Marylanders adequate accounting of its actions, depriving the state's citizens of their ability to play a role in its stated purpose of "develop[ing] recommendations for policy, regulations, or legislation that would achieve an optimal balance of providing access to and enforcing paid leave without causing detrimental economy effects."<sup>[4]</sup>

I urge the Open Meetings Compliance Board to examine this matter and rectify this situation so that the Committee on Paid Leave is able to offer effective and representative policy recommendations as per its purpose.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Matthews  
Chair

<sup>[1]</sup> [Executive Order 01.01.2017.08, Office of Governor Larry Hogan, 5/25/17](#)

<sup>[2]</sup> [Applicability of the Act, Maryland Open Meetings Act Manual, 9th Edition, 12/16](#)

<sup>[3]</sup> [Executive Order 01.01.2017.08, Office of Governor Larry Hogan, 5/25/17](#)

<sup>[4]</sup> [Executive Order 01.01.2017.08, Office of Governor Larry Hogan, 5/25/17](#)

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