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Office of the Mayor  
Gavin Buckley, Mayor  
160 Duke of Gloucester Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

January 28, 2021

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

The City of Annapolis is home to hundreds of wonderful small businesses that not only provide goods and services to the community, but also integrate themselves into the fabric of our neighborhoods through hands-on, personalized customer services. Under the spotlight of the COVID-19 pandemic, moreover, our essential small businesses (like grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores) responded to the call, requiring them to redesign business operations in order to safely serve the public. It's been an inspiring success story in an otherwise bleak and uncertain time.

That's why I am surprised and disappointed that the Maryland Department of Health decided to exclude hardware store employees from the 1C vaccination group. Certainly older Marylanders, front line medical staff, educators, and individuals with disabilities must be vaccinated first, but once vaccination supplies are replenished there is no policy reason to exclude hardware store employees from the 1C list of "essential businesses."

The COVID-19 pandemic required a renewed public-private partnership to safely care for all of our communities and neighborhoods. Retail hardware stores in Annapolis responded to the challenge and we need to make sure they can continue to safely serve the public throughout the region's upcoming recovery and renewal period. Please direct the MDH to adjust the 1C vaccination category accordingly.

Sincerely,

Gavin Buckley

Mayor

**MICHAEL MALONE**  
Legislative District 33  
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 164  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 25, 2021

*Sent First Class Mail and Via Email: gov.appointments@maryland.gov*

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Vaccination Priority for Hardware Store Employees

Dear Governor Hogan:

It has come to our attention that a coalition of independently owned hardware stores throughout Maryland has requested 1C status for the purpose of the state's COVID-19 vaccination rollout. We strongly support their request and urge you to take expeditious action to make this change.

In setting forth the priority list, and taking into account the limited vaccine supplies, you undoubtedly faced many difficult decisions. Moreover, we applaud you for giving 1A and 1B priority status to health care professionals, law enforcement, educators and older Marylanders. There is an unintended consequence, however, in the 1C group as currently defined in your vaccination plan.

Despite being deemed essential last March when the pandemic began, hardware store employees have been designated for Phase 2 in the vaccine rollout, meaning that hardware store employees would not have vaccine access for several weeks, if not months. This outcome unnecessarily puts hardware store employees and the public who they serve at risk.

The essential nature of hardware stores is undeniable. Pandemic or no pandemic, sinks leak, roof shingles fall, windows break and these repairs are clearly essential.

In addition to the essential nature of hardware retail, one of the many reasons independent stores are so successful throughout Maryland is the dependable, expert service that customers rely upon to make purchasing decisions. Personal, face-to-face interaction between hardware store employees and customers is a regular occurrence and, comparatively speaking, far more common than customer-employee interactions in grocery stores.

While we wait patiently for the State's vaccination supplies to replenish, we urge you to revise the rollout plan to reinstate hardware store employees as 1C essential workers. For all of the aforementioned reasons, there is no policy justification to distinguish between hardware and grocery store employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Malone', written over a horizontal line.

Delegate Michael Malone

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sid Saab', written over a horizontal line.

Delegate Sid Saab

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Chisolm', written over a horizontal line.

Delegate Brian Chisolm