April 29, 2026

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
Governor of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: HB 449 & SB 229 – Class Action Lawsuits

Dear Governor Spanberger:

The undersigned organizations write to express our sincere appreciation for your thoughtful engagement with the Virginia business community to improve House Bill 449 and Senate Bill 229 which would allow class action lawsuits in Virginia's courts for the first time. Your proposed amendments to this legislation reflected a commitment to a fair and balanced civil justice system and a clear desire to ensure Virginia remains a top state for business. As the General Assembly has regrettably rejected your proposed amendments without meaningful consideration and returned the bills to you in their enrolled form, we respectfully urge you to veto House Bill 449 and Senate Bill 229.

As you know, Virginia has appropriately and deliberately refrained from authorizing class actions in state courts for many years. This restraint has served the Commonwealth well by ensuring a fair, predictable, and stable legal climate that discourages speculative, costly litigation while still preserving appropriate avenues for individual claims. For decades, this balance has played a vital role in ensuring Virginia's reputation as a top state for business. Enacting this legislation as enrolled would dismantle that balance in ways that would be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse.

The enrolled legislation represents a sweeping departure from that tradition and from Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and similar state corollary rules. Your proposed amendments would have appropriately required class action lawsuits in Virginia to conform to these standards and would have ensured that meaningful summary judgment applied to class action proceedings. Without those guardrails, the Commonwealth would be establishing a legal regime uniquely favorable to plaintiffs' attorneys seeking to exploit novel and untested procedures, which would serve only to increase costs for Virginia businesses and residents. The retroactive application of the law, elimination of the reasonable reliance standard under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA), absence of meaningful summary judgment, and undefined per-violation damages under the VCPA would make Virginia a magnet for speculative litigation the Commonwealth has thus far avoided. The damage to Virginia's legal and business climate would be immediate and significant, undermining the Commonwealth's longstanding pro-business reputation.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to veto House Bill 449 and Senate Bill 229. While we greatly appreciate your thoughtful and targeted amendments to improve these measures, the General Assembly's decision to reject them returns to your desk

legislation that would impose significant legal uncertainty and long-term economic harm. A veto would preserve the Commonwealth's longstanding commitment to a fair, predictable, and balanced civil justice system that encourages investment and supports job creation and economic growth.

The Virginia business community looks forward to working with your Administration and the General Assembly in future sessions to ensure Virginia's legal and business climate remains competitive. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this letter, for your leadership, and for your service to the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Associated Builders and Contractors - Virginia Chapter
Augusta Health
ChamberRVA
Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce
Delta Star
ECPI University
Fredericksburg Regional Chamber
Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce
Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Chamber
Hourigan Group
Indivior, Inc.
InterChange Group, Inc.
Luck Companies
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance
Matern Staffing Inc.
MEB General Contractors
Monument Wealth Management
Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
Northern Virginia Chamber
PRA Group, Inc.
Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce
South Hill Chamber of Commerce
Southern Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce
Standard Communities
The Blackstone Chamber of Commerce
The First Bank and Trust Company
Top of Virginia Regional Chamber
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform
Universal Corporation
Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA)
Virginia Association of Surveyors
Virginia Automobile Dealers Association
Virginia Bankers Association
Virginia Economic Developers Association
Virginia Food Industry Association
Virginia Hispanic Chamber
Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association
VIRginia International Raceway
Virginia Manufacturers Association
Virginia Retail Federation
Warsaw Richmond County Chamber of Commerce