



February 18, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Efstrotation  
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary  
132 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Stan Gunter  
Vice Chairman, House Committee on  
Judiciary  
612-F Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.  
Atlanta, GA 30333

*RE: HB 183*

Dear Chairman Efstrotation, Vice Chairman Gunter and Members of the Committee:

As a representative of the 30 million small businesses in America and the 1.1 million in Georgia, Small Business Majority writes today in support of HB 183 (Rep. Marvin Lim), which would allow small businesses to sue larger businesses for unfair or deceptive practices under the Fair Business Practices Act (FBPA).

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 80,000 small businesses and 1,000 business and community organizations to advocate for public policy solutions and deliver resources to entrepreneurs that promote equitable small business growth. A key component of our work involves outreach to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including access to capital, workforce issues, healthcare and more.

While the FBPA in its current state allows consumers to file suits against corporations for deceptive practices, such as passing off another business's goods as one's own or making false representations of another's business, it excludes small businesses from the legal process. Without legislation like HB 183, small businesses have few avenues to take legal actions against large corporations that have far more resources. Larger businesses have many means by which to file suit for unfair or deceptive trade practices, but small businesses do not have those avenues, leaving them at a disadvantage. The FBPA not only provides a mechanism to raise concerns to the Attorney General for possible investigation, but also provides triple damages and attorneys' fees that small businesses could not otherwise afford.

Neighboring states such as Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and Tennessee have already passed legislation that permits these suits by businesses, and it is time that Georgia follows in their footsteps. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 183 and level the playing field for Georgia's small businesses.

Sincerely,

Rachel Shanklin, Georgia Outreach Manager  
Small Business Majority