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PARLIAMENTARIAN  
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Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 12, 2020

**House Bill 256 Maryland Estate Tax - Unified Credit**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 256 Maryland Estate Tax - Unified Credit**, which lowers the state's estate tax exemption limit from \$5 million to \$1 million, ensuring that millionaires and multi-millionaires pay their fair share in taxes.

In 2014, Maryland passed legislation increasing the estate tax exemption, benefitting a small number of wealthy heirs and making it harder for the state to invest in essential services. Currently, when an estate in Maryland is passed down after a death, \$5 million of the value of the estate is exempt from taxes. HB 256 reverts the estate tax exemption to only exempt up to \$1 million of the value of the estate from taxes, so the state can invest in more critical services, such as education.

At a time when we are seeking to identify funds for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, we need billionaires and estates high in value to pay their fair share of taxes. Maryland students deserve a great education. To help ensure Maryland's schools are funded, I urge the committee to give a favorable report for **House Bill 256**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins