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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

January 21, 2021

**House Bill 165 Maryland Estate Tax – Unified Credit**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 165 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 165 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.

At a time when small businesses are fighting to stay open, at-risk students are falling behind, families are facing unexpected health expenses, and Marylanders are experiencing unprecedented rates of unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's clear that billionaires who own estates high in value should be paying their fair share of taxes so we can invest in more essential community services and post-pandemic relief. For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a favorable report for **House Bill 165**.

Sincerely,

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

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins