



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

10451 Mill Run Circle #625
Owings Mills, MD 21117

1-800-922-9672
410-876-5998

FAX 443-881-4146
www.msatp.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Donya S. Oneto
President

Ellen S. Silverstein
1st Vice President

Hannah Coyle
2nd Vice President

Jonathan E. Rivlin
Secretary

Ann F. Elliott
Treasurer

Sean D. Coggins
Delegate

Matthew T. Eddleman
Delegate

Michael L. Kohler
Delegate

Michael S. McIlhargey
Delegate

Nicole Moore
Delegate

Barbara J. Smith
Past President

Christine Giovetti
Board of Trustees Delegate

Giavante' Hawkins
Executive Director

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals

Re: SB 288

Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins

Position: IN FAVOR

State Board of Individual Tax Preparers - Sunset Extension

On behalf of the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP), representing over 2,000 tax professionals serving hundreds of thousands of Maryland taxpayers, I enthusiastically support Senate Bill 288. This legislation would extend the regulatory authority of the State Board of Individual Tax Preparers, providing essential consumer protections that our members strongly endorse.

Our organization aims to uphold diligence, expertise, and integrity, guiding taxpayer clients toward financial empowerment. Maryland is home to thousands of conscientious, ethical tax preparers dedicated to those ideals of providing counsel and services that sustain economic resilience.

Notably, the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals and our members played instrumental advocacy roles in 2008, calling for the Board's formation through legislation. We felt so passionately about protecting consumers from fraudulent or negligent tax prep services because we saw firsthand the anguish incompetence caused taxpayers expecting but not receiving expert, honest counsel. We knew thoughtful oversight was essential for public trust in our profession. The enactment of licensure and regulation marked a pivotal milestone sponsored by our efforts to nurture reputability.

Unfortunately, many unqualified individuals also seek to exploit taxpayers, especially vulnerable groups, through deception, fraud, and incompetence without accountability. Since its establishment in 2008, the State Board of Individual Tax Preparers has provided effective oversight, shielding residents from harm by enforcing competency standards and codes of conduct among licensees. Its efforts enhanced consumer safety and public confidence. While more vigilance is still needed, terminating the Board invites negligence that harms citizens counting on reputable assistance navigating complex filing processes.

Our past leadership on this consumer issue gives us special appreciation regarding the immense positive impacts of the Board's authorized duties over the past 15 years. We want to continue our collaboration, ensuring Maryland taxpayers benefit from access to credentialed, principled tax expertise guided by robust state standards and controls for years ahead.

Senate Bill 288 demonstrates foresight in preserving access to accountable tax expertise by continuing the essential licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions the Board fulfills. We urge a favorable report to passage of this legislation supporting both practitioner excellence and taxpayer protection.

Thank you for your consideration.

Giavante Hawkins



