

Reggie Cox, D.V.M
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RE: House Bill 1515

Dear House,

I am writing to urge you to vote no for House Bill 1515, concerning sales and use tax. You are proposing that we decrease the state sales tax from 6% to 5%, but in exchange for that you are creating a host of services that until now have not been taxed, including veterinary services and pet grooming services. While that will directly affect my business and clients, the other services you are including will affect all Marylanders adversely:

Childcare Services: Our families with young children are having a hard enough time as it is, trying to pay for childcare.

Accounting and Financial Planning: This affects every small business in the state.

Legal and Appraisal Services: This affects every business, every family with a home, and every person needing legal advice.

Real Estate Services: This affects every family with a home or that is trying to obtain a home. Home ownership is a game changer for how our citizens thrive. If you do not have secure housing, your whole lifestyle is at risk.

Funeral Services: They are already high. This will make them more expensive.

I could go down the list with every single one of the services you are proposing to tax. This would put an onerous burden on Maryland citizens and businesses. Maryland's small businesses have already been adversely affected by recent changes: mandated sick leave, the minimum wage increase, paid leave insurance. If you keep burdening small businesses with more expenses, a lot of our small businesses will not survive. Small businesses historically have been the primary employers of U.S citizens. If you start pushing out small businesses, we will be stuck with large corporations that focus on profits with no concern for the consumers.

This does not just adversely affect me personally as a veterinarian; it adversely affects all Marylanders. This will discourage people from using Maryland services. It will discourage businesses from coming to Maryland. They have other states that don't excessively tax businesses to choose from. None of our competitor states in the region broadly tax services like this bill proposes to do. This bill would ultimately hurt Maryland. I urge you to vote against it.

Sincerely,



Reggie R. Cox, D.V.M.