

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to House Bill 1515 (HB1515), a proposed legislation that, in my view, would bring about severe consequences for the residents and small businesses of Maryland. This bill, which seeks to impose the State sales and use tax on all services, raises significant concerns about its impact on the cost of essential services and the financial burden it would place on the average Maryland family.

While the bill seemingly offers a reduction in the general sales tax rate from 6% to 5% for goods and services, the devil lies in the details of its plan to expand the definition of taxable services. Under HB1515, virtually everything that Marylanders currently enjoy tax-free would be subject to taxation. From salon services and dry cleaning to tax preparation, car repair, home improvement, law services, and real estate agents – the list is exhaustive. This indiscriminate taxation would undoubtedly hit the pockets of hardworking individuals who are already grappling with the challenges of everyday life.

The potential consequences of such a broad tax base are deeply troubling, particularly when it comes to essential services that individuals rely on for their well-being and livelihoods. The average Maryland family is already stretched thin financially, and an additional tax increase would only exacerbate their financial strain. Moreover, the impact on small businesses, the backbone of our community, cannot be overstated.

Small service-oriented businesses, which cater to the diverse needs of our residents, would likely face a decrease in customers due to the increased costs associated with the proposed tax. Many individuals, struggling to make ends meet, may find themselves unable to afford these essential services, leading to a decline in business for service providers across the board. This domino effect could have severe repercussions on the economic health of our community, stifling growth and causing hardships for local entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, the implications of this proposed tax extend beyond the monetary aspect. Service providers who rely on tips for a substantial portion of their income, such as those in the salon or restaurant industry, may find themselves facing decreased earnings as customers adjust to the added costs. This not only impacts the financial stability of service workers but also disrupts the delicate balance of our local economies.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the adverse effects of HB1515 on Maryland residents and businesses. A tax on essential services will undoubtedly burden the average family, place strain on small businesses, and potentially lead to a decrease in the quality of life for many. I implore you to stand against this detrimental legislation and prioritize the well-being of our community.

Taxing the average family and small business is not going to help the State of Maryland climb out of its deficit. What will help is cutting programs that the average family is not able to utilize. Cutting programs that the State of Maryland cannot afford. Relief needs to be given to the citizens of the state of Maryland not to everyone else.

Thank you for your time and consideration.