

House Bill 1554

Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary

House Ways and Means Committee

130 Taylor House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Senate Bill 1045

Chair Guy Guzzone

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

3 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

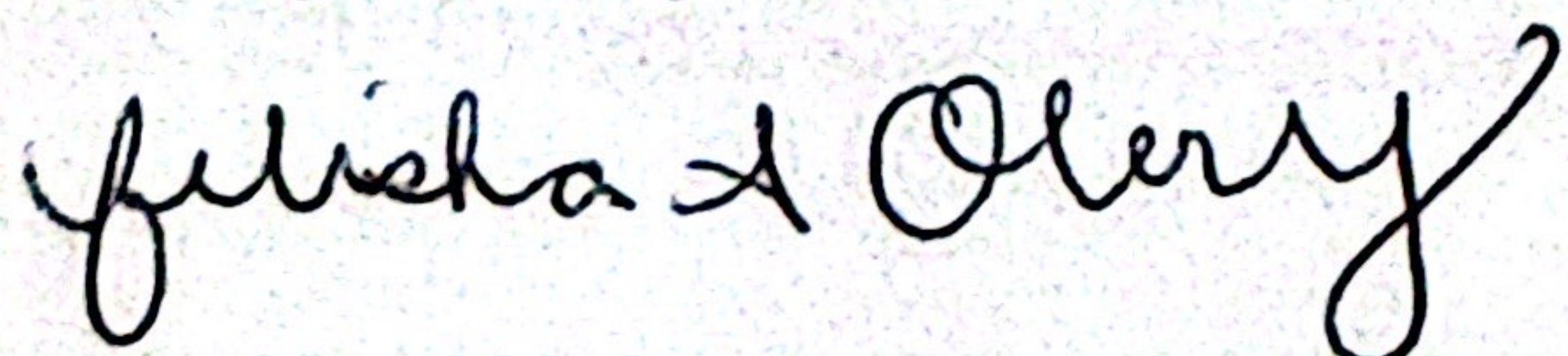
Dear Legislators:

I am writing to OPPOSE House Bill 1554/Senate Bill 1045: Sales and Use Tax – Taxable Business Services – Alterations. I am the Director of Government Affairs of Autumn Lake Healthcare. Representing all 37 Centers, throughout 9 Counties here in Maryland. We provide Short Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care services to Maryland's Aging Population. We anticipate the need for our services will grow exponentially over the next ten years as the population continues to grow and our older Marylanders live longer lives. We participate in the Medicare and Medicaid Programs as well as Private Pay and Private Insurances for our service rendered.

A sales tax bill such as this would add an additional expense on diverse levels considering how we do business in the Skilled Nursing Centers. And at a time when our reimbursement is at risk. Such a decision would be detrimental for any provider to continue with the status quo, let alone to increase services to meet the demands and needs of the vulnerable residents that we provide care for daily. Unfortunately, the healthcare industry still faces many obstacles with staff challenges and nursing shortages. This additional tax would add undo stress to the already difficult balancing act the healthcare industry faces daily.

When listening to Governor Moore's initiatives and goals It was my understanding that the plan for Maryland was to build it into a place where more people wanted to live and bring new businesses into. I personally feel that a bill such as this will do just the opposite.

Thank you for your consideration,



Felisha Oberly, Director of Government Affairs, Autumn Lake Healthcare

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