

Subject: Urgent Opposition to HB 1554/SB 1045 – Protect Home Healthcare Services

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to **strongly oppose** House Bill 1554/Senate Bill 1045: *Sales and Use Tax – Taxable Business Services – Alterations*.

My name is Veronika Kushnir, and I am an HR Manager at HomeCentris HealthCare, a **Medicaid-enrolled provider** delivering essential in-home healthcare services to Maryland's elderly and individuals with disabilities. This bill would create **devastating financial burdens** on home healthcare providers and ultimately harm the vulnerable populations we serve.

Here's why HB 1554/SB 1045 must be stopped:

1. **Increased Costs for Essential Care** – The proposed expansion of taxable business services would significantly raise operating costs for home healthcare agencies. With already limited Medicaid reimbursement rates, these additional expenses would **directly reduce the resources available for patient care**.
2. **Reduced Access to Home-Based Care** – Higher operational costs will force many providers to **cut services, reduce staff, or even close their doors**. This will leave thousands of seniors and individuals with disabilities without the care they rely on to remain safely in their homes.
3. **More Expensive Alternatives for the State** – Without access to home healthcare, many individuals will be forced into **nursing homes or hospitals, which cost the state significantly more** in Medicaid expenses. Home-based care is a proven cost-saving solution, preventing unnecessary hospitalizations and long-term facility placements.
4. **Severe Workforce Shortages** – The home healthcare industry is already facing a **caregiver shortage**, and this tax burden will make it even harder to recruit and retain skilled professionals. If providers are forced to **cut wages, reduce hours, or downsize staff**, fewer caregivers will be available to meet the rising demand for home-based services.
5. **Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Populations** – This bill would **directly harm Maryland's elderly, disabled, and low-income residents** who depend on Medicaid-funded home care. Many families simply **cannot afford private-pay options**, and reducing Medicaid services will leave them with no viable care alternatives.

For these reasons, I urge you to **reject HB 1554/SB 1045** and protect the integrity of Maryland's home healthcare system. We must ensure that our seniors and most vulnerable residents continue to receive the compassionate, cost-effective care they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Veronika Kushnir
HR Manager
HomeCentris HealthCare

