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To :

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegates, We trust this testimony finds you having a fruitful legislative session! We are writing to express our sincere concern regarding House Bill 1554. Voshell's Pharmacy has had the happy legacy of serving Maryland's public with high quality, safe and effective pharmaceuticals for almost one hundred years. As a family operation, we now have recently expanded to serve patients as far west as Frederick, Maryland, and as far east as Rehoboth, Delaware.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide further details about our opposition to HB 1554. As a small business Voshell's Pharmacy contracts for many business-to-business services. To name just two, we keep our systems up and running smoothly with hardworking IT contractors, and even our delivery vehicle maintenance is done by reputable auto care providers. Almost inevitably, the new service tax will hurt our bottom line. We don't want to pass the expense of a tax on to our Maryland customers.

Voshell's is succeeding today, and has succeeded since 1927, because we put people first, even more than profit. Caring is in our chemistry as we like to say.

Much of our customer base here in South Baltimore is made up of recent immigrants--Vietnamese, Korean, Latin and more. It can be hard enough for them to buy breakfast eggs, much less getting service from a small business sector burdened with a new tax. We trust you will put your good judgement, and talent for innovation to find a wiser course forward than HB 1554.

Please put politics to work for Maryland entrepreneurs, so we can continue to grow and look forward to a bright future for small business!

Warm Regards,

Trieu and Thuy Cato

Trieu and Thuy Cato, Owners, Voshell's Pharmacy