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Dear Senator Hettleman and Delegate Moon,

As your constituent and a Maryland resident and small business owner, I am concerned about our state's rising cost of living. **I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1554/SB 1045**, which would create a new 2.5% tax on business services.

As a small business owner in Maryland, 47% of my gross sales already goes to State and Federal taxes. I can't afford to increase this tax burden, which I will be forced to pass on to my clients, and still run a successful business in Maryland.

Additionally, while this may be called a "business tax," the economic reality is that it's Maryland consumers, like me, who will ultimately pay for it. When local businesses face higher costs for accounting, IT support, and other essential services, these increases get passed directly to customers through higher prices. For my family, this means:

- Higher grocery prices as our local supermarkets pass on their increased operating costs
- More expensive haircuts, home repairs, and vehicle maintenance
- Rising costs for healthcare as medical practices offset their higher expenses
- Fewer local shopping and dining options if businesses close or relocate
- Increased childcare costs as daycare centers pass on their higher administrative expenses
- Costlier veterinary care for our family pets

With inflation already stretching household budgets, Maryland families cannot afford what amounts to a hidden tax increase on everyday necessities. Each new tax on businesses ultimately finds its way to consumers' wallets, while potentially reducing job opportunities in our communities.

Those on fixed or limited incomes including seniors, working families, and young professionals starting their careers will feel these price increases most acutely. At a time when many Marylanders are making difficult budgeting decisions, adding to their cost of living is simply not sustainable.



As your constituent, I ask you to prioritize Maryland families' financial well-being by voting **NO on HB 1554/SB 1045**. Instead of applying new taxes that raise consumer costs, please focus on policies that make our state more affordable and encourage businesses to create jobs here.

Most sincerely,

Heather Zindash

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