



To: State Delegates
Committee: Ways & Means
Bill: HB1554
Date of Hearing: March 12, 2025

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Dear Honored Representative,

If my method of addressing your gathering is not in line with protocol, please accept my humblest of apologies.

I am not an individual who is of strong vocal opinion and certainly not one to lobby complaints about our great State. I have, however, reached a point where I can no longer remain silent in the face of what so many consider to be a constant assault on the finances of taxpayers. While I strongly considered raising my concerns via virtual testimony, I opted for written testimony for fear that my frustrations would lead to my inability to properly express my thoughts and opinion on this matter.

It cannot be taken lightly that your hearing on this proposal is occurring during the busiest time of year for those that it impacts most. I find the disconnect to be glaring. I would like anyone reading this to note that I have carved out time from a 60 hour workweek to express my displeasure that a Bill such as this one, at a time of nearly unprecedented rising costs, could even be considered.

As a CPA, I work hand in hand with my clients and their businesses in an effort to operate in an efficient and responsible fashion. This is done so in order to ensure profitability. In private industry this is a must, as failure does not allow a business owner to simply take funds from the bank account of others to cover their shortfall. In the scenario of a business expending more than it collects, it is fairly obvious that their doors will need to close. Unfortunately, attaining profitability has become increasingly challenging in the face of rising costs for nearly every line item on the expense side of the "P&L". This holds true for individual taxpayers as well.

Our esteemed Governor stated during the 2025 opening session that he would avoid tax increases and budget cuts, focusing instead on growing the State's economy. Governor Moore stated that "anyone who simply thinks you can tax your way to prosperity doesn't know what they're talking about". The proof to this accurate statement comes from the fact that a number of States which border ours have a budget surplus while we face a \$3B shortfall that is projected to grow to \$6B in five years. Delaware has a surplus without the "benefit" of a sales tax! So I ask you, what are we doing wrong in Maryland and how is it corrected? Do we correct this by taxing more vital services, thereby continuing to drive out taxpayers and businesses from our State? When and how does this end?

I would be very happy to further discuss this specific Bill, or other matters indirectly related to this bill such as the incredible difficulties CPA's experience with reporting to the State on various levels. The latter has made the CPA a dying profession in our State, and I believe that this proposed Bill will be the nail in the coffin.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to consider the words of Maryland taxpayer, CPA and business owner.