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The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chairman
House
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1628 –Sales Tax on Services - Opposed

Dear Chairman Kaiser and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf our client, the Maryland Association of Health Underwriters (MAHU) we wish to register their opposition to House Bill 1628.

MAHU is a trade association of small businesses and individuals whose members do business in Maryland. They provide the essential health insurance link between insurers and the businesses and citizens who purchase their products and services. To a large degree, though not exclusively, the compensation received by MAHU members is already subject to the insurance premium tax imposed by the State. Additional taxes of any kind would simply be passed along to those who need critically important health insurance coverage. For many years, the public policy of Maryland, supported by MAHU, has been to expand health insurance coverage to as many of our citizens as possible. MAHU continues to work with the Maryland General Assembly to achieve that goal. Imposing an additional tax on a product that is already expensive and unaffordable for some would be contrary to our longstanding public policy in the State.

MAHU acknowledges the need for the General Assembly to make decisions about the services required by our citizens, as well as the need to pay for those services. For that reason, MAHU supports an independent study of these issues and respectfully requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1628.

Very truly yours,



Bryson F. Popham, Esq.