

February 25, 2020

Maryland House of Delegates
House Ways and Means Committee
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support - HB 1628: Sales and Use Tax - Tax Reduction and Services.

Good afternoon Ways and Means Committee Members.

I am the parent of a child with multiple challenges and disabilities. I am a member of Parent Advocacy Consortium, which advocates for children enrolled in special education programs. And I am in favor the Maryland Education reform Bill, Blueprint for Maryland's Future. And I am also in favor of finding ways to fund the needed education reforms recommended to us by the Kirwan Commission.

I am also a small business owner, and services provider here in the local Annapolis community, in the form of tech consulting services. As it stands, our tax system is antiquated and could use updates which accurately reflect our current services-based economy. I am very ready and willing to absorb and pay taxes on the services I provide, in order to pitch in, and help fund education program reforms statewide.

At the end of the day, 5% sales tax is a nominal price tag to help fund improvements to Maryland's education system. With an improved education system, just imagine what amazing things our current and future generations of Maryland students will contribute to our local communities, our state and to the world.

I hope that every stakeholder, business owner and Maryland voter will support this bill. And I also hope they support its intended purpose, to reform and improve our education system, and to help improve the overall futures of all Maryland students.

I ask that the committee to return a favorable report on HB 1628.

Thank you for considering my testimony today.

Kind regards,

Mr. Richard Ceruolo
3 Carvel Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21409