



*Connecting Low-Income  
Individuals and Families who  
need Civil Legal Services with  
Volunteer Attorneys and  
Community Resources*

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**BILL NO:** HB610 – Homeowners Property Tax Credit – Transfer of Dwelling to Surviving Family Member

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**FROM:** Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc.

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. (MSPB) urges a favorable report for HB 610, which would allow qualifying surviving family members to utilize the homeowners property tax. This bill will significantly reduce financial burdens on surviving family members, enabling families to maintain secure housing, and increase intergenerational financial stability.

Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc. is a Maryland nonprofit that connects low-income clients throughout Maryland's Eastern Shore with essential community resources. Each year, MSPB helps over 3,000 of our community's most vulnerable people access the legal system in times of need. Our network of volunteer lawyers provides free legal services on family law, landlord/tenant, mortgage foreclosure, elder law, consumer debt, and immigration. These services help families gain financial and housing stability and create safe, secure home environments for children, which is especially important in times of crisis.

MSPB provides free elder law services to nearly 500 seniors and families every year. Our volunteer attorneys help surviving family members to manage estates of their loved ones in addition to helping people to plan for the future by preparing life planning documents such as a will, power of attorney, and advance medical directive. All too often, families are saddled with tax payments, medical debt, and other bills left behind by a deceased family member. In many cases, families must sell the family home in order to pay comparatively small bills. The result is housing and financial instability that may spiral into homelessness and bankruptcy. Removing barriers to transferring property in the estate administration process is critical to maintaining long term financial and housing stability for surviving family members. For these reasons, MSPB urges your support for HB610. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Meredith Lathbury Girard, Esq., managing attorney, at 410-690-8128, [mgirard@midshoreprobono.org](mailto:mgirard@midshoreprobono.org).