



To the Budget and Taxation Committee:

My name is Amanda Behrens, and I am the owner of a small health coaching business, Real Food Store Tours, LLC, d/b/a Get Real with Amanda.

My entrepreneurial journey started at Anne Arundel Community College, as a member of the Ratcliffe Scholars program in the spring of 2016. Since then, I have built my small practice, starting my LLC officially in 2017.

My coaching business is my passion project. As a former student at AACC, I saw how many barriers there were to folks in the entrepreneurship program starting their businesses, and how challenging it could be to bring their own passions into reality.

Whether or not to start an LLC is one of many important decisions a new business owner must make. Keeping it in good standing year to year with a \$300 filing fee can feel overwhelming. That additional cost, among all the other costs of starting one's own business, could hold someone back from taking this major and legally protective first step. While they may initially be able to file to incorporate, that yearly fee to maintain good standing could pull funding away from more impactful investments in their small business.

It is from that mindset, and that framework, that I support SB403.

By removing the annual report filing fee for online filers, we create space for more small businesses to move forward in this important way, to keep their businesses in good standing, and to grow in new ways by utilizing that \$300 to put toward a more meaningful investment in their business.

It would be amazing if Maryland were to truly become the first state in the country to provide a zero-fee option for all businesses for this type of filing.

Please support the passing of SB403.

Thank you for your time.

Best in health,

*Amanda*

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