

Law Office of John A. Andryszak
Attorney at Law

120 Edge Hill Road
Annapolis, MD 21405

Telephone: (410) 507-4182
Email: jack@jandryszaklaw.com

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Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 571-Sales and Use Tax-Oral Hygiene Products Exemption

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Tax Committee:

On behalf of my client, GSK Consumer Healthcare, I am before you today to testify in support of Senate Bill 571. GSK Consumer Healthcare is one of the largest manufacturers of healthcare products in the world. Its oral health division develops and markets a wide range of science-based oral products, including Aquafresh, Sensodyne, Anbesol and Polident to name a few.

The reason for GSK Oral Healthcare's support for this bill is quite simple. One of the goals of the Company, as stated on its website, is to make the world's mouths healthier. Providing an exemption to the sales tax for oral healthcare products will, in some small way, help make healthcare products more available to families and individuals least able to afford them.

In difficult financial times, oral healthcare products often are viewed as less essential by those with limited incomes. This bill provides a benefit, albeit a small one, to those individuals. Every little bit helps.

GSK Consumer Healthcare is not before you today because it believes this exemption will increase the sale of its products. Rather, GSK is before you in support of this bill because it will help improve the oral health of Marylanders.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 571.

Respectfully yours,

John A Andryszak