

SHANEKA HENSON
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 152
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3045 · 301-858-3045
800-492-7122 Ext. 3045
Shaneka.Henson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 31, 2022

Chair: Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
Vice Chair: Delegate Alonzo Washington
6 Bladen Street Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington, House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing this testimony to present and support HB 364, Sales and Use Tax - Medical Devices - Exemption. This bill is just a small step forward in our care for the most vulnerable in our society. When we think about taxation, we must consider who we are saddling with the financial burden. And certainly we ought to work to alleviate the financial pressure on those who find themselves in need of durable medical devices.

This bill will be of great service to seniors who are living on fixed incomes, but to people of all ages who have found themselves in need of such medical attention and devices that ultimately support healthy living. When people are in dire circumstances we ought to seek to remove stressors and provide them with as much assistance as possible.

HB0364 would omit sales and use tax from specific durable medical devices. Devices many Marylanders use in their daily lives. The law as it currently stands serves to increase the cost of already costly medical needs. Making it even harder for seniors, and others with medical needs, to gain access to the care they need, and continue to provide for the other needs they may have. This bill would help them focus on their health and wellness instead of increasing financial stress.

People in need of such medical devices, including our seniors, face many obstacles. They are often more susceptible to exploitation, abuse, and fraud. Our duty is to diminish these obstacles in any way possible. This bill is a small piece of fulfilling that duty.

Thank you for considering this piece of legislation, and I hope you will support HB0364.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shaneka Henson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate Shaneka Henson