

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee

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The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 151
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3352 · 301-858-3352
800-492-7122 Ext. 3352
Fax 410-841-3132 · 301-858-3132
Benjamin.Brooks@house.state.md.us

District Office
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244-3133
410-496-4037

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF HB623
Income Tax-Subtraction Modification- Essential HealthCare Workers**

Ways & Means Committee
February 16, 2022

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on HB623, Income Tax-Subtraction Modification- Essential HealthCare Workers. The purpose of this bill is to allow a \$2,000 subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for essential health care workers, to be applicable for all taxable years after December 31, 2020 but before January 1, 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic shed light on the selflessness of our essential healthcare workers. In Maryland alone, there have been 970,732 confirmed cases. Our essential healthcare workers were on the frontline combatting this pandemic. They risked their own safety to care for our loved ones, often times, with limited equipment, medicine and proper protected gear. They endured long hours and a tremendous amount of physical and emotional stress. There can be no debate of the invaluable response and sacrifices our essential health care workers, our physicians, nurses, EMT's and respiratory care providers, made during this pandemic.

HB623 provides a small token of appreciation to our unsung heroes who continue to fight this virus with courage.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks