



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

10451 Mill Run Circle #625  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

1-800-922-9672  
410-876-5998

FAX 443-881-4146  
www.msatp.org

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

**Donya S. Oneto**  
*President*

**Ellen S. Silverstein**  
*1st Vice President*

**Hannah Coyle**  
*2nd Vice President*

**Jonathan E. Rivlin**  
*Secretary*

**Ann F. Elliott**  
*Treasurer*

**Sean D. Coggins**  
*Delegate*

**Matthew T. Eddleman**  
*Delegate*

**Michael L. Kohler**  
*Delegate*

**Michael S. McIlhargey**  
*Delegate*

**Nicole Moore**  
*Delegate*

**Barbara J. Smith**  
*Past President*

**Christine Giovetti**  
*Board of Trustees Delegate*

**Giavante' Hawkins**  
*Executive Director*

**To: Economic Matters**

**From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals**

**Re: HB 1314**

**Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins**

**Position: IN FAVOR**

**Corporations and Associations – Annual Reports – Filing Fees (Right to Start Act)**

Good morning; my name is Giavante' Hawkins, and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP). On behalf of over 2,000 accounting and tax professionals representing the interests of hundreds of thousands of Maryland taxpayers, I offer this enthusiastic endorsement of House Bill 1314.

By waiving initial corporate registration fees, the "Right to Start Act" directly supports entrepreneurs during the most perilous phase of business building. Our members witness both the immense effort and precarious nature of startups operating on razor-thin margins from inception. Each cost reduction expands possibilities for innovators fueling Maryland's economy.

Furthermore, dedicating filing fees to childcare programs increases the opportunities for working parents to raise the next generation. Supporting startups and families simultaneously is creative, compassionate policymaking. The fiscal impacts balance short-term startup relief against ongoing revenues, still funding state priorities like child care subsidies and scholarships.

In closing, MSATP urges a favorable report to stimulate entrepreneurship, aid young families, and take a modest yet meaningful step toward economic growth and accessibility for all Marylanders. Please feel free to contact our office with any other questions. Thank you again for allowing our perspective.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Giavante Hawkins*

