

## Unfavorable: HB 1515: Sales-and-Use Tax, Rate Reduction and Services

Madame Chair and members of the Committee,

I am a married mother of three school-aged children. I represent thousands of parents across the state who are concerned about the high cost of goods and services and the struggle it is to raise families on a budget in Maryland in 2024. Many families are limited in income growth potential – the very last thing that should be introduced at this point in time is an increase and expansion of sales and use taxes.

Imagine the impact on a single parent household that is getting by on a basic income, no assets, and just manages to cover the bills each week. The proposed significant increase and expansion of sales and use tax will not be easily absorbed by the household. Children will miss out on the basics they need; enrichment opportunities from any discretionary income will certainly disappear. Cars and homes will be more expensive to maintain, rent costs will further increase.

Imagine the impact on a small business, and the families that depend on growth of that business to launch them toward a more prosperous future. This proposed increase and expansion of sales and use taxes will negatively impact the growth potential of those businesses and thus have a negative impact on the livelihoods of those families.

I volunteer a significant amount of time to support public schools and non-profit organizations and social services in my community. Yes, Maryland is increasing investment in schools and social services, but that investment must be matched with strong support for families to be financially independent through increased opportunity. Now is NOT the right time to introduce such a far-reaching and dramatic increase in taxes.

Marylanders need relief, not higher taxes imposed on everyday services. We need investments in the people not programs, so the people can contribute to grow our economy, grow our opportunity, and make Maryland more affordable for families. I urgently request an unfavorable response to HB1515.

Sincerely,  
Allison Rizzo  
Frederick, Maryland