



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: Ways and Means Committee

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals

Re: HB 218

Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins

Position: IN FAVOR

Income Tax - Credit for Long Term Care Premiums (Long Term Care Relief Act of 2024)

On behalf of the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP), representing over 2,000 tax and accounting professionals serving hundreds of thousands of Maryland taxpayers, I strongly support House Bill 218. This legislation would expand and improve an important tax incentive for residents to invest in long-term care insurance coverage.

Long-term care represents one of the largest uninsured financial risks facing Maryland families. Our state's average annual costs for nursing homes and assisted living facilities now exceed \$100,000 per year. Few seniors have adequate savings or insurance to protect against devastating costs should they require extended custodial, medical, and personal care in later years.

As tax practitioners assisting clients with financial planning and health insurance decisions, we frequently observe procrastination regarding long-term care coverage due to cost concerns. The existing \$500 tax credit has proven inadequate to motivate appropriate levels of insurance uptake. House Bill 218 would drive better consumer choice by offering enhanced credits up to \$1,500 for premium costs. Focusing eligibility on persons over age 85 also correctly targets those at the highest risk of incurring long-term care expenses.

Expanding policy coverage among this vulnerable cohort will yield significant economic benefits for residents and cost savings for Maryland's Medicaid program over time. We applaud the bill sponsors for recognizing the immense value tax incentives can provide in driving prudent financial preparation.

The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals urges a favorable committee report on this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Giavante Hawkins

