

HB 651: Tax Exemptions - **Individuals Detained or Taken Hostage Abroad:** Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 651**, concerning *Tax Exemptions – Individuals Detained or Taken Hostage Abroad*.

Maryland citizens who are wrongfully detained or taken hostage overseas endure unimaginable hardship, trauma, and uncertainty. During such circumstances, they and their families often face significant financial strain in addition to emotional distress. Providing targeted tax relief is a compassionate and appropriate way for the State to recognize those hardships and offer meaningful support.

HB 651 acknowledges that individuals who are detained abroad are placed in extraordinary situations beyond their control. It would be unjust for them—or their families—to face additional state tax burdens during or immediately following such traumatic events. Granting a tax exemption during the period of detention or captivity is a reasonable measure that reflects both fairness and humanity.

This legislation also sends a clear message that Maryland stands with its residents in times of crisis. When citizens experience circumstances as severe as wrongful detention or hostage situations, the State should act to ease administrative and financial pressures wherever possible.

HB 651 is a limited, compassionate policy that addresses a rare but deeply serious circumstance. It **reflects both fiscal reasonableness and moral responsibility.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 651**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals