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January 30, 2026

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee

Chairwoman Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Ways and Means Committee

Re: SB291/HB323


Dear Chairs Guzzone and Wilkins,

I write this letter in support of SB291 and HB323. I am an attorney who represents elderly persons who have been defrauded through the actions of scammers. This legislation would provide fair relief to victimized Marylanders.

In every instance I have represented victims of elder fraud, the majority of the stolen funds have been from qualified retirement accounts. My clients, after being victimized by the scammers, then received significant tax bills for early withdrawal of the funds. This amounted to compounding victimization, as my clients had money stolen from them, and then had to pay taxes on the stolen money, even though they did not receive the stolen money.

This legislation would protect vulnerable Marylanders. I urge a favorable vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Winkelman