



February 19, 2018

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1277 – Income Tax – Elimination of the Marriage Penalty – Support

Dear Delegate Kaiser:

House Bill 1277 would correct state income tax brackets for taxpayers filing joint tax returns beginning after December 31, 2017.

House Bill 1277 expands the tax bracket to eliminate a built in “marriage penalty” by increasing the bracket thresholds. Current tax brackets are more favorable to single taxpayers as compared to married ones. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce supports this bill. We believe the bill is a step in the right direction towards fostering a more attractive climate for business and individuals in our state.

The state of Maryland is at a critical juncture as the competition to attract new business and individuals is increasing. We have seen tax and fee increases over the past years. Moreover, the move toward increased regulation has had a negative impact on our business climate. We need to reverse this cycle for the future generations of Marylanders or we continue to lose both residents and businesses and at the same time become unattractive to those who are looking at our state as a place to call home.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members therefore asks that your committee consider the positive long-term benefits of House Bill 1277 and give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Michael McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Senator Justin Ready