

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service



January 27, 2020

The Hon. Guy J. Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Mr. Chairman:

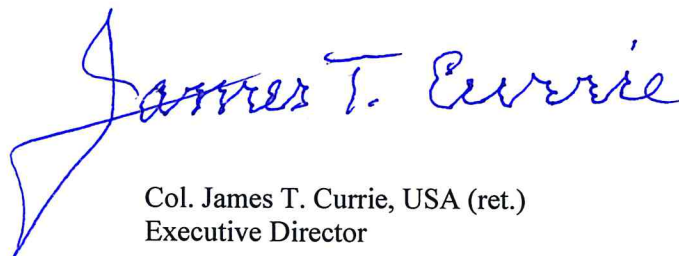
I am writing you as Executive Director of a non-profit organization in the State of Maryland, the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service. We represent the uniformed officers who serve our country in the U.S. Public Health Service, one of the seven federal uniformed services.

Maryland is home to more of these officers than any other State. These are highly-educated individuals who serve our country for many years, retire, and take up a second career in the private medical sector. Any State would be delighted to have these officers remain within its borders and add to the economic viability of the State. We hear constantly from officers who are retiring from the USPHS and are searching for the location where they will pursue the next phase of their careers. Often, one of the primary determinants of their decision is how their PHS retirement income is treated for taxation purposes.

We understand that the State of Maryland is once again considering legislation that would exempt uniformed service retirement income from State taxation. We understand that the decision as to whether to do so will be based on an evaluation as to whether the State will benefit economically from such exemption. As you make this calculation, we ask you to consider the value of having additional practicing physicians or dentists or nurses or engineers remain in Maryland for their second careers, as opposed to having them depart for more retiree-friendly locales.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you or your staff wish to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Col. James T. Currie, USA (ret.)
Executive Director