



Feb. 21, 2020

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

Re: HB 788, Income Tax - Itemized Deductions - Favorable with amendments

Dear Chair Kaiser and members of the Committee:

The Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) is a membership organization with nearly 9,000 CPA members. Our members serve thousands of individual and business clients throughout the state. We support HB 788 with an amendment to allow taxpayers and tax preparers a level of certainty and simplicity.

We support a provision allowing Marylanders to itemize deductions on the Maryland return even if the standard deduction is taken on the federal tax return. However, we would like clear language indicating that the itemized deductions are to be based on the currently enacted version of the Internal Revenue Code with limited modifications.

Many of our members have clients who have directly experienced the consequences of not being able to itemize deductions on their state tax returns when the federal deductions were taken. These consequences included increased taxes if they didn't make multiple calculations, and increased time and cost to make those multiple calculations for finding the right combination of state and federal deductions.

The MACPA appreciates the opportunity to continue offering technical assistance. We respectfully request a favorable report with amendments for HB 788.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Hood, III, CPA  
CEO & Executive Director

cc: Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates