

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers  
1014 Dockser Drive  
Crownsville, MD 21032

March 1, 2023

Maryland General Assembly  
Members of the Finance Committee  
Annapolis, MD

RE: SB 542 – Public Safety – Emergency Management – Consumer Protections Against Price Gouging

Dear Senators,

We oppose SB 542 and respectfully request that you vote against it.

There are those people that will take advantage of others in an emergency situation and raise prices beyond the norm. However, we feel that they are in a small minority and that most business men and women are fair in what they charge – emergency or not.

The problems associated with increased fees for goods and services that some people experienced during the Covid pandemic were unfortunate. But, do they constitute the need for legislation?

In this free-market society there are usually many sources of supplies and contractors to be had, most of which are fair in their pricing, emergency or not. Consumers have the ability to “shop around” and get more than one quote from a contractor and go to another store if they want a better deal.

Does the government know something we do not? Are they expecting more pandemics and emergencies, out of the scope of what we normally experience, in the future?

We feel that this bill is not necessary, adds to more government regulations and an increased burden on the staff of our government.

Please vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers