



Comptroller Franchot and Treasurer Kopp,

The following organizations and elected officials are contacting you today over Gov. Hogan's proposed budget that would be devastating to our state and municipal employees, especially here on the Eastern Shore. We are well aware of the damage Covid-19 has caused to our State's economy and budget. However, the only way we are going to defeat the Covid-19 impact is to fund our frontline workers, who are critical to our recovery.

As someone who has expressed support for the Eastern Shore and our economy, we are appealing to you to vote NO on budget cuts, for the following reasons.

1) Other less damaging alternative cuts can be made. See them here:

<https://www.afsememd.org/council-3-updates-1/alternative-state-service-cuts>

2) Cutting State employee incomes during an economic recession/depression will take more money out of our local economies. This is crucial money that needs to be pumped back into the local economy, to keep our businesses afloat and our residents from falling further into economic chaos. We know, from the actions of the Federal Reserve, that now is the time to keep money flowing into our economy, not reducing it.

3) Cutting funds for our front line workers during a pandemic is like not paying your water bill when your house is on fire. These are the workers who have been making sacrifices to keep everything running during this crisis. How can the Governor even contemplate cutting their benefits and pay? That doesn't say "Thank you" - it is a slap in the face!

4) Your "NO" vote will force a real discussion to take place about budget, and people, priorities, and how we can better serve all Maryland citizens.

5) Your "NO" vote will give us crucial time, in order to foster conversation with elected leaders and residents around Maryland, to gain insight on what the real effects of these cuts will be. It is clear that anytime quick decisions are made, without the opportunity to obtain feedback from all stakeholders, there is the likelihood of some groups to be hurt. In this case, those groups are primarily the ones who were committed to their jobs and communities during this crisis.

6) Your "NO" vote will show the residents of Maryland that you support the idea that our state government exists for the benefit of all of us, not just the powerful and wealthy.

7) Your "NO" vote will show you can see through Gov. Hogan's supposed crisis, and that Maryland needs to make decisions based on facts and realities, not manufactured assumptions.

Based on these seven points, we urge you to vote "NO" against this attack on our workers and communities. You can stop this until a real conversation can occur. We, and so many others around the state, are counting on you!

Signed,
Jared Schablein
Chair, Lower Shore Progressive Caucus

Michele Gregory
Salisbury Councilperson District 4

Bob Muehlenkamp
President, Our Revolution Maryland

David LeGrande
Our Revolution- Howard County

Cecilia Plante
President, Maryland Legislative Coalition

Kitty Maynard
Head Administrator, Kent and Queen Anne's
Indivisible

Chris Izzo
Our Revolution Western Maryland

Jacob Kravetz & Sheila Ruth
Our Revolution Baltimore.

Chrissy Holt and Clayton Northcraft
AACO

Ron Pagano, JD
ENDEAVOR Disabled Advocacy

Suchitra Balachandran
Our Revolution Princess George's

Susan Buyer and Toby Perkins
Co-Coordinator, Indivisible Worcester MD

Larry Stafford
Executive Director, Progressive Maryland