**N**ATIONAL **A**CTIVE AND **R**ETIRED **F**EDERAL **E**MPLOYEES

MARYLAND FEDERATION

**DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR. DR. SUDHA HALEY EDWARD REED PATRICIA FARMER**

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 PAST PRESIDENT

July 15, 2017

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Jr.

Office of the Governor

100 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

The Maryland Federation of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) advocates for the interests of more than 300,000 current and retired federal employees in Maryland. Moreover, we advocate for the well being of the more than **800,000 seniors** in Maryland.

We greatly appreciated and fully supported you in your past efforts to bring some much needed tax relief to Maryland's senior population. The bill you submitted in the 2016 legislative session would have increased the amount of the additional exemption allowed under the personal income tax for individuals, age 65 or older, from $1,000 to $5,000, phased in over a four-year period. Almost every individual taxpayer would see an increase in income by about the same amount. Notably, both the House of Delegates and the Senate passed bills to reduce taxes on seniors, albeit in different forms, which could not be compromised before adjournment. We were disappointed when your bill was not reintroduced during the 2017 session.

Seniors contribute to Maryland's overall economy in many ways, including extensive volunteer work. In addition, seniors have a tendency to spend any additional income since for them the future is now. Your Department of Budget and Management noted that those small businesses in Maryland that are patronized by seniors with their additional income would be positively impacted by your proposed increase in the senior exemption. In addition to the benefit that spending, in general, provides to the overall economy, this spending has the added benefit of generating additional state sales tax revenue.

I write this letter to let you know that NARFE will continue to support any efforts to bring tax relief to seniors and retirees and we will advocate on behalf of any legislation you move forward to achieve this aim. I suggest that we meet to discuss this matter and how it might be done in a most effective way. My contact information is listed below.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Roundtree, Sr.

Dr. Gary Roundtree, Sr.

President, Maryland Federation of NARFE

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cc: Sent to the Office of Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford