

March 3, 2011

The Honorable Tiffany Alston
The Honorable Curtis S. Anderson
The Honorable Joanne C. Benson
The Honorable Talmadge Branch
The Honorable Jill Carter
The Honorable Luke Clippinger
The Honorable Joan Carter Conaway
The Honorable William C. Ferguson IV
The Honorable Tawanna P. Gaines
The Honorable Lisa A. Gladden
The Honorable Cheryl D. Glenn
The Honorable Peter A. Hammen
The Honorable Hattie N. Harrison
The Honorable Keith E. Haynes
The Honorable Anne Healey
The Honorable Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.
The Honorable Carolyn J.B. Howard
The Honorable James W. Hubbard

The Honorable Jolene Ivey
The Honorable Verna L. Jones-Rodwell
The Honorable Nathaniel J. McFadden
The Honorable Brian K. McHale
The Honorable Maggie L. McIntosh
The Honorable Keiffer J. Mitchell, Jr.
The Honorable Doyle L. Niemann
The Honorable Nathaniel Oaks
The Honorable Douglas J.J. Peters
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
The Honorable Victor R. Ramirez
The Honorable Samuel Rosenberg
The Honorable Justin D. Ross
The Honorable Melvin L. Stukes
The Honorable Michael G. Summers
The Honorable Geraldine Valentino-Smith
The Honorable Michael L. Vaughn
The Honorable Mary L. Washington

Dear Representatives and Senators representing Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Districts:

As the President and CEO of Volunteers of America Chesapeake, an organization 115-years strong this month, that provides high-quality human services to more than 9,000 men, women and children in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, I am writing to ask you to support the "Maryland First" plan.

Senators Delores Kelley, Karen Montgomery, Brian Frosh, Paul Pinsky, Jamie Raskin and James Rosapepe should be applauded for putting together such a comprehensive package that not only proposes necessary changes to increase revenue, but offers a much better solution to the 'cuts only' approach to our serious budget problems.

Together these five bills have the power to bring an estimated \$827 million in new revenues to Maryland – revenue to help close our state's estimated \$1.6 billion-dollar deficit and revenue to help support the Maryland residents who need help the most.

Through our Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, Homeless, Senior, Veteran, Corrections and Supportive Services, Volunteers of America Chesapeake's mission is to inspire self-reliance, dignity and hope. Our mission is carried out daily in the dedicated work of our more than 650 employees and 2,200 volunteers. Yet in order to carry on our mission and grow our services to help more Maryland residents, we need the financial support and continued commitment of our government partners.

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Volunteers of America Chesapeake

The proposed measures of: raising alcoholic beverage taxes by a "dime a drink;" increasing the gasoline tax 12 cents a gallon; raising the cigarette tax by \$1 per pack; continuing the additional tax on income over \$1 million and enacting corporate tax reform through "combined reporting" are all measures that I, a tax-paying citizen of the great state of Maryland, and Maryland Nonprofits support.

The six Senators who unveiled the "Maryland First" plan believe it will "accelerate our investment in public education, public transportation, and public health. " I believe this is a necessary investment – even in tough economic times – that will lead to the future success of our state.

Thank you for your support and consideration. If you have any questions about this request, or to learn more about how our organization is changing lives in your district, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Snyder", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Russell K. Snyder, President/CEO
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