



February 19, 2024

To: Chairman Smith and members of the House Taxation Committee
From: Jessica Lucas, President – Friends of Cedar Crest Association
RE: FoCCA and HB 2685

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you today about the Friends of Cedar Crest Association's support for HB 2685. The Friends of Cedar Crest Association is a 501c3 organization that exists to provide for the preservation and enhancement of the Governor's residence. As many of you are familiar, the Association has been actively fundraising for the past few years to make investments in improvements on the first floor. These updates will include the purchase of rugs and furnishings.

While we will purchase goods for the state's Governor's residence, our organization is not tax exempt and our donor funds will be spent paying sales tax to the state on items that enrich a state property.

I appreciate that this bill would enable us to forego the payment of sales tax and urge this body to advance HB 2685. In the event this bill does not advance, I urge your support of the inclusion of a sales tax exemption for the Friends of Cedar Crest Association through whatever tax vehicle possible, but hopefully it can be managed through HB 2685.