Dear Representative [Last Name]/Senator [Last Name]:

I am writing as an attorney from [town and county] and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) to ask that you vote against a sales tax on legal services. Imposing a sales tax on most legal services would create a major financial barrier for individuals with lower and moderate incomes who need legal representation the most.

For many Pennsylvanians, hiring a lawyer is a necessity and not a luxury item. Access to justice is a basic constitutional right that should not be taxed and treated as a commodity. Increasing the cost of effective legal representation by imposing a sales tax would impact persons of limited means who often need a lawyer to:

* obtain workers’ compensation or Social Security benefits that have been wrongly denied
* fight a property assessment action by their local government
* deal with a hostile landlord or tenant
* have a simple will written or probate the will of a loved one
* avoid a home foreclosure

I understand the difficult fiscal problems that the Commonwealth is now facing, but a tax on legal services is not the proper fix. This financial burden should not be shifted to individuals who are truly in need of legal representation. Please join me and the PBA in opposing this legislation.

Respectfully,

[Your name]