



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President
Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald W. Jackson

**HB 680 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals without Qualifying Children –
Calculation and Refundability
House Ways and Means Committee
February 20, 2020**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 680 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals without Qualifying Children – Calculation and Refundability. My name is Donna S. Edwards and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

A large segment of Maryland's workforce struggles, day to day, to make ends meet. These are people with jobs with low pay and little to no benefits. We should be looking for ways to help these struggling Marylanders move up the income ladder, join the middle class, and get some breathing room to plan for their futures.

HB 680 increases, from 50% to 100%, the percentage of the federal credit that an individual without a qualifying child can claim. Moreover, the bill makes the credit full refundable, so these earners receive a refund check. This expansion puts more money directly into the pockets of low-income Marylanders, allowing them a little more flexibility in their spending

This expansion is good for every Marylander, because with more money available to spend, workers will spur consumer demand, helping Maryland's small businesses, as well as leading to more jobs. HB 680 is good for low-income workers, Maryland businesses, and our economy.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 680.