

To: Speaker Adrienne Jones
State House, H-101, State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

To: President Bill Ferguson
State House, H-107, State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Cc: Members of the House Ways & Means Committee, Members of the House Economic Matters Committee, Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

RE: Amending the Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act, HB612/SB496 to include coronavirus relief payments to *all* Maryland residents

February 2, 2021

Dear Speaker Jones, President Ferguson, and Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

We, the undersigned 60+ organizations, urgently call on you to amend the Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act, HB612/SB496, to include coronavirus relief payments to *all* Maryland residents who meet the Maryland earned income tax credit income criteria.

The RELIEF Act, as proposed, would provide much needed relief to Maryland families across the state, but fails to provide aid to some of our most vulnerable and marginalized communities, including undocumented immigrants and their families. The legislation, as written, stipulates that State economic impact payments will be provided to taxpayers that received a State earned income tax credit in accordance with § 10–704 of the Tax – General Article during certain years. Undocumented immigrants and other Marylanders who do not have valid Social Security numbers, despite filing and paying taxes, are not eligible for the earned income tax credit, and therefore will be ineligible to receive this relief.

Undocumented immigrants in Maryland and across the country have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic¹. Undocumented taxpayers with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) were excluded from the federal CARES Act² never receiving any meaningful form of direct cash payments during the first stimulus rollout. Not only were ITIN holders excluded, but families with mixed immigration status³ (families with US citizen children, spouses and dependents) also did not qualify. Furthermore, hundreds of thousands of

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7357736/>

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text?q=product+actualizaci%C3%B3n>

undocumented immigrants have worked alongside essential workers in the state to keep Maryland safe and operating. Despite this, undocumented immigrants remain ineligible for unemployment and for health insurance through the Maryland Health Connection - even during these unusual circumstances that bear enormous health consequences for all Marylanders.

We call on your leadership to ensure that *all* Marylanders are considered in the RELIEF Act and in all other statewide forms of relief.

Respectfully Signed,

1199 SEIU
ACLU Maryland
Action Baybrook, Inc.
AFSCME Council 3
Art Education in Maryland Schools
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Maryland
Baltimore Action Legal Team
Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club
Baltimore Women United
Bend the Arc: Jewish Arc
Bonimot Tzedek (Justice Builders)
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Catholic Charities of Baltimore
Centro SOL
Citizens Policing Project
Congregation Action Network
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Coworking Wednesday
Crossroad
Doctors for Camp Closure
Equity Matters
Family League of Baltimore
Friends of Latin America
Greater Baybrook Alliance
HIAS
Hinenu
Hispanic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Baltimore
Howard County Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Identity

IMPACT Silver Spring
Indivisible Howard County
International Rescue Committee
Just Peace Circles, Inc
Kid in Need of Defense
Laborers Local 11 LiUNA
Latino Economic Development Center
Latino Racial Justice Circle
Liberty Village Project
Making Changes
Maryland Against ICE Detention
Maryland Center for Economic Policy
Maryland Latinos Unidos
Maryland State Education Association
Montgomery Housing Partnership
Mothers on a Move
Organizing Black
Our Revolution Howard County
Progressive Maryland
Public Justice Center
RISE Coalition
SEIU Local 500
SEIU 32BJ
Showing Up for Racial Justice
Sisterhood of Salam Shalom
Southeast Community Development Corporation
Takoma Park Mobilization
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition
UFCW Local 400
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia
United Against Hate
Unite Here Local 25
University of Maryland Carey Immigration Clinic
Uplift, LLC
Jews United for Justice