



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**
February 23, 2023
Senate Bill 589: Income Tax – Work Opportunity Tax Credit
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 598. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 598 would allow employers that claim the federal work opportunity credit to claim a credit against the State income tax for wages paid to individuals with barriers to employment. It would allow this state tax credit for employers that hire and retain employees that have faced employment discrimination or barriers to entering the workforce.

This legislation is an important extension of the federal program that seeks to increase employment among under-employed individuals who face barriers to employment, often in underserved communities. Enactment of this bill will enhance career opportunities for individuals such as veterans, vocational rehabilitation referral applicants, qualified long-term unemployment recipients, qualified SSI recipients, previously incarcerated individuals, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.

This legislation will allow more Marylanders to share their strengths through employment for the betterment of our state and personally advance themselves and their families. In addition, this legislation in Maryland will advance a federal policy to aid employers across all sectors, allowing them to grow and build their teams. Considering the workforce challenges that our sector and many others face, it is more important than ever that we increase the labor participation rate while investing in social equity.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 598.

Submitted by:

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