

*Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, 3W
Annapolis, MD 21401*

RE: SB452-SUPPORT

Hello, my name is Thea Washington, and I'm a casting director and mom from Baltimore City. I'm writing to show my support for Senate Bill 452 sponsored by Melony Griffith. This bill would provide much-needed tax credits for the film industry, something that would prove advantageous to industry moms like myself who are looking for a way to work, without having to uproot their entire family and relocate to Los Angeles or New York City.

I know firsthand the importance of the film industry, not just in terms of providing jobs, but also in helping actors join the union, giving financial assistance and helping people achieve their goals. In my own career, I've been able to provide over 5,000 jobs and help others in achieving their dreams while supporting myself and my family. As an industry mom we need a village to make sure our kids are loved and don't skip a beat, so being where my village is located is the only way to maintain any type of balance and normalcy for me and my loved ones.

It is my belief that increased tax credits would go a long way in helping Maryland retain its rich film history, attract even more local productions, and grow the economy for our citizens. Furthermore, these tax credits would help level the playing field, enabling us to compete with bigger and more established states, where filmmakers can benefit from larger Scale and Crew incentive programs.

I personally know just how much an incentive such as this can mean to a local industry mom like myself. Daily I am thanked via Instagram, Facebook, walking the streets for hiring them to work on one of the films that has employed me. That's why I'm proud to stand here today in support of Senate Bill 452 and urge you all to join me in showing your support and backing this important piece of legislation so that we can keep Maryland on the cutting edge of the film industry. Thank you.

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