

Testimony Requesting a “Favor Vote” on HB32, Family Caretaker Tax Credit

Forwarded by AARP Suitland Maryland Chapter #939

Good day, Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. I am representing:

Sonya Best and her Mom, Stella Best. Currently living in District Heights, Maryland.

Sonya states –

I had a beautiful mother who at one time was an active member in the Baltimore Community and a competitive tennis player.

Today, my Mom is losing her mind due to dementia, high blood pressure, diabetes and other health issues. Last month she was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. It is a very sad situation for me to see and live with. My Mom is now at the point that she does not know who I am and tries to leave my home to “go home” and must be protected. My heart is broken. I have had to move my mother from Baltimore, where I was traveling at least 3 times weekly to care for her. Her situation has become unbearable. I knew I had to make a change, either move to Baltimore or move her to my home. I work for the FBI in Washington and cannot afford to drive to and from Baltimore. I am unable to retire due to the cost of taking care of my Mom. I had to hire a caregiver to help me and her. The cost of a caregiver is more than \$1,000.00 a week. That includes her daily care, transportation to and from many doctor’s appointments, helping her to dress, eat her meals and provide for daily activities and other needs as required.

I am paying both of our mortgages in Baltimore and Prince Georges’ Counties.

I have had to exhaust my savings, tap into my 401, borrow money from friends and spend every available dollar to make ends meet. I need help both financially and mentally.

I cry more than I smile. I don't know how long I can continue to care for both of us as I have health issues that are debilitating as well. We have no one to take care of either of us.

I am requesting your support of SB202 Income Tax -Caregivers Tax Credit. There are so many Marylanders who need assistance. You can make the difference to many Marylanders who also deal with the pain and suffering of loving our loved ones.

Please consider a favor vote for SB202, Income Tax – Caregivers Tax Credit.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my pain and what I and many others are having to bear.

Sonya Best, District Heights, Maryland