

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:

Phyllis Campbell and her Uncle, Melvin Whitaker. Resided in Suitland, Maryland until his recent passing, October 2023.

Phyllis states –

My uncle Melvin was a kind, gentle, loving spirit. His entire career was in our family business, the carpet industry. When dementia began to rob our life of his independence, as his days sometimes became a memory of the past, dementia only showed up with him thinking he had to get up and go to work or that his carpet guys were waiting for him! When I would have to talk him down (back to reality), he would say, “I gotta go!!!”. It would always break my heart to see him living in the past that he loved so much.

My uncle Melvin had a stroke that truly made him more dependent on me. He had dysphagia which required me to make sure his food was soft and well cut up to swallow. I prepared all his meals, maintained his laundry, took him to doctors’ appointments, dressed him, safeguarded the home for him, and a host of life changing requirements. It was exactly like having an adult child. I had to manage this and a job. As a contractor with limited leave, I had to use my vacation time or my sick leave to be able to take him to appointments or to be with him if he was sick. I often wondered what would happen if I became ill, how would I get through this?

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.

Phyllis Campbell, Suitland, Maryland