



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 22, 2024

HB 845

Income Tax – Individual Income Tax Credit Eligibility Awareness Campaign

House Ways & Means Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of House Bill 845. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 845 is legislation that would require the Comptroller of Maryland to implement and administer an individual income tax credit eligibility awareness campaign.

In the Catholic tradition, we are called to uphold the inherent dignity of every human person and to work towards the common good. This includes ensuring that all individuals have access to the resources and support they need to thrive and participate fully in society. However, many individuals in our communities are unaware of the tax credits and benefits for which they may be eligible, resulting in missed opportunities to alleviate financial hardship and promote economic stability.

By implementing an awareness campaign to identify and encourage individuals to apply for certain individual income tax credits, we can help alleviate poverty, address economic inequality, and empower individuals to achieve greater financial security. These tax credits play a crucial role in supporting low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations by providing much-needed assistance with essential expenses such as housing, healthcare, and childcare.

Authorizing the Comptroller to enter into data sharing agreements with other state agencies will enhance the effectiveness of the awareness campaign by enabling targeted outreach to individuals who may qualify for tax credits based on their eligibility for other social service programs. This collaborative approach will ensure that those who are most in need of assistance are able to access the support they require to thrive and overcome economic barriers.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 845.

