

March 25, 2025

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Tara Rider  
Brigit  
36 W 20th Street  
New York, New York 10011

RE: House Bill 1294: Favorable

Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and members of the committee,

My name is Tara Rider and I am the Vice President of Policy and Government Relations, a financial wellness company that offers direct to consumer, earned wage access ("EWA") to over 130,000 consumers in Maryland at an average of \$75.00 per transaction. Earned wage access is a financial lifeline that so many Maryland residents rely on with over 83% of Brigit customers reporting that they feel less financially stressed while 72% of our customers report that they are able to perform better at work when utilizing our platform.

HB-1294 establishes consumer protections, a licensing requirement for providers as well as a first in the nation fee cap for delivery fees. Unlike traditional credit, earned wage access does not charge interest or late fees, nor does it require credit checks or report to credit bureaus. Earned wage access is non-recourse, meaning that the product does not have to be repaid. Brigit also allows for a flexible repayment date should a customer need more time, with no penalty, and no questions asked.

Brigit not only offers a standalone no cost earned wage access product but also offers an optional, \$1.99 expedited transfer fee allowing customers to access their funds within minutes; as well as subscription based suite of services that include identity theft protection, credit monitoring, a 0% APR credit builder loan, as well as budgeting tools to assist our customers on their path to financial independence. This subscription is completely optional and can be canceled at any time. There is also no requirement to subscribe to utilize our earned wage access service.

We appreciate the time and efforts that both the Senate Finance Committee and House Economic Matters Committee have spent working with stakeholders on this important issue over the last two years.

Thank you again for your efforts on HB-1294.

Sincerely,

Tara Rider  
Vice President, Policy and Government Relations