

Chair Guy Guzzone and
Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller State Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB718- SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

My name is Lorenzo Millan and I am writing you about SB0718.

I currently work in the area as a Production Sound Mixer making movies and television shows, commercials, documentaries, and the like. I was born in Baltimore and other than a few years in New York City for my university studies have remained in the area. My wife, our two children and I have made our home in the Baltimore area.

I began my work in the film industry almost 25 years ago as a boom operator (the person with the pole and the microphone over the actors heads) on the NBC show Homicide: Life on the Street and continued that work through the HBO productions Shot in The Heart, The Corner, Something the Lord Made, The Wire, and Veep. In 2012 I became a production sound mixer. That year I mixed the movie Better Living Through Chemistry which was filmed on location in Annapolis. I also took over as sound mixer halfway through the first season of the Netflix show House of Cards. I was able to work on the rest of the series and garnered four Emmy nominations and one win for sound mixing on episode #14, the first episode of season 2. After the end of the series I was able to work on 2nd Unit of Wonder Woman 1984 and mixed the independent films Really Love and Charm City Kings. I will also be mixing the pilot for Showtime, The President is Missing which will be filmed in Baltimore in March of this year. With luck it will become a series, made in our state.

I am writing because I hope that you will consider favorably SB0718 because of the positive effect it will have on the film industry here in Maryland. The amount of incentive dollars currently available for the next fiscal year really will only bring one full production to the state. The base of technicians and craftspeople here is highly competent and well respected by the wider film community through the work that has been done here. What other state can say they produced The Wire AND House of Cards, along with many other award-winning productions like Something The Lord Made and Homicide: Life on the Street? Having the incentives bumped up to \$20 million for the next fiscal year will open the door to

film and TV Producers to let them know that Maryland means business and wants to attract work here. No one is asking for Maryland to become Georgia. What we hope for is to not have to struggle to make ends meet and to have to consider moving away to find work in another state. Most of us are from here, and greatly want to stay here.

My son has Hemophilia A, which has the most expensive continuous treatment regimen that exists. He is a patient at Johns Hopkins Hemophilia Treatment Center right here in Maryland. It is one of the best in the country. Health benefits paid for by producers working in Maryland make those treatments possible.

Another positive impact is in-state spending by residents like me who make a good living from work brought here through the production incentive program. I know what the studies say the return is to the state, but I would disagree with those reports. First off, most of the craftspeople working on these productions are Marylanders and as such are paying state taxes on their income. We all spend our income in-state. My home mortgage is with SECU of MD. I purchase my paint from Budeke's as do the movie productions who come into the state. I try to buy as much as I can from local establishments (favorite ice cream, JJ Hoffman's in Hampstead, favorite restaurant Café Spice in Cockeysville, etc). These are all small local businesses that benefit from our impact. Not to mention the hotel chains, rental car companies, lumber yards and all the other locally owned and operated business that service the needs of productions that decide to film in our state.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Millan

Production Sound Mixer

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