



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President
Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald W. Jackson

HB 679 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals without Qualifying Children – Eligibility
House Ways and Means Committee
February 20, 2020

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 679 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals without Qualifying Children – Eligibility and Refundability. My name is Donna S. Edwards and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Maryland took an important first two years ago, joining several other states in eliminating the minimum age requirement for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Unfortunately, far too many low-income, single filing tax payers are still ineligible to receive the EITC. Maryland tax policy should not keep low-income workers in poverty.

HB 679 raises the income threshold for the EITC, allowing more low-income workers to take advantage of the credit, providing more relief, and allowing more breathing room for working families, trying to make ends meet.

In 2018, the EITC lifted approximately 5.6 million people out of poverty, including about 3 million children¹. The number of poor children would have been more than one-quarter higher without the EITC. The credit reduced the severity of poverty for another 16.5 million people, including 6.1 million children. The EITC is the most effective poverty fighting tool that we have, and it is time to expand it, in order to provide more opportunities for working Marylanders.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 679.

¹ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/policy-basics-the-earned-income-tax-credit>