Budget & Tax Committee
SB 218: Maryland Child Tax Credit
January 20th, 2021
Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that works to improve policies, programs and services that support people with developmental disabilities and their families in our communities. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. **From that perspective, the DD Council supports SB 218 because it will improve the lives of low-income Marylander's with children.**

Six States (California, Colorado, Idaho, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma) currently offer state level child tax credits alongside the Federal credit. Maryland should join those states and support more low-income parents, especially those caring for children with disabilities.

WHY is this legislation important?

➢ One survey found that **more than 70% of family members providing care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities reported that caregiving interfered with their work.** (*2010 FINDS National Survey: Family and Individual Needs for Disability Support*)

➢ Another study found that the odds of a worker losing income increase by 48% if the worker lives with a child with disabilities and special health care needs

➢ **Working family tax credits improve educational attainment, increase earnings, and lead to positive health outcomes.**

WHAT does this legislation do?

➢ Provides a tax credit of $500 per child to taxpayers who have incomes of $6,000 or less. If the credit is more than the taxpayer's liability, the excess may be claimed as a refund.

People with disabilities are twice as likely to face unemployment or under-employment than the general population. This bill will help people with developmental disabilities maintain independence and meaningfully participate in all aspects of community life.

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