



Peter Franchot  
*Comptroller*

## TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

### Support - Senate Bill 480 - Income Tax Distribution - Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders

*Ways and Means Committee*

*March 25, 2021*

Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chairman Washington and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **Senate Bill 480 - Income Tax Distribution - Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders**. I would like to thank Senator Zucker for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

As a long-time advocate for financial literacy programs and a supporter of the CASH Campaign of Maryland, I am proud to support this legislation that establishes the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund. This important legislation will provide grants to the University of Maryland School of Law, the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service to operate tax clinics for low-income Marylanders.

Why is this bill so important? The federal tax code is frequently used as a great equalizer and mechanism by which Congress uses to address inequity and provide economic assistance to the people. Unfortunately, too many of Maryland's working families leave millions of dollars on the table every year by not having the expert assistance provided to wealthier people. This legislation allows the talented group of people at the University of Maryland School of Law, the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service to help more low-income Marylanders get their fair share of tax breaks, credits, and other benefits.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for Senate Bill 480. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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