



Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 176 – “Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Calculation and Refundability”
Ways and Means Committee
January 21, 2021

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools and community centers, and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the entire Jewish community.

Our agency has a long tradition of being on the forefront of efforts to reduce economic poverty in the United States. In addition to the Jewish immigrant experience in this nation, the concept of “Tikkun Olam” (repair the world) requires Jews to work for the welfare of all persons. Moreover, Judaism embodies a sense of ethical responsibility to everybody in our nation to assure them the basic necessities of life and to use our efforts to provide all people with the ability to maintain their economic well-being and dignity. As Proverbs 31:9 says, “speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy.”

The JCRC continues to call upon its member organizations to renew, with vigor, their efforts to “speak up,” to “judge righteously,” and to “champion the poor and the needy.” As a result, we always have been a supporter of the Earned Income Tax Credit as an effective tool to lift people out of poverty. House Bill 176 will help expand eligibility to many Marylanders so that they can receive the State EITC. Specifically, the Bill expands the EITC that can be claimed by individuals without qualifying children. The bill also makes the credit fully refundable. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 176.