



3/28/2022

**Re: Support of HB 252/SB 369 – Income Tax Return Preparation Assistance Program for Low-Income Families**

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

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) to urge your support of HB 252/SB 369 – Income Tax Return Preparation Assistance Program for Low-Income Families.

The Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) is a statewide non-profit organization comprised of Maryland's 17 Community Action Agencies, which collectively serve every Maryland county. Together, we work toward eradicating homelessness and poverty to realize our vision of ensuring that all Maryland individuals and families are stable, economically secure, and live in safe and thriving communities.

MCAP supports HB 252/SB 369 because of its effects on the individuals and families with low-income that our organizations serve.

**If passed, the bill would:**

- Ensure access to tax preparation assistance for individuals and families with low-income.
- Provide eligible taxpayers with prepared income tax returns and amended income tax returns by using data already collected by the Comptroller from reports from employers and other sources. This service would be provided without regard to filing status for the current taxable year and the three immediately preceding taxable years.
- Prohibit a tax collector from assessing a penalty to program participants, under certain circumstances, regarding any unpaid tax.

There has been a proven correlation between enabling access to tax credits through the provision of tax preparation assistance and reducing the impacts of poverty on individuals and families. By enhancing and simplifying access to tax preparation assistance for Marylanders with low-income, our state will be providing critical support toward the goal of helping our most vulnerable citizens to reach economic security.

If there is any additional information that I can provide for you as you consider this bill, I would be happy to help. You can contact me at [amartin@maryland-cap.org](mailto:amartin@maryland-cap.org), or by calling 205-757-0764.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Angela Martin", written over a white background.

Angela Martin, Executive Director