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Marylanders Against Poverty

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 404

Working Marylanders Tax Relief Act of 2022

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

February 9, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) opposes SB 404, which extends the expansion of the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) but excludes low-income immigrant families who now receive the credit. While the EITC is a powerful anti-poverty tool, MAP cannot support this legislation unless it is amended to also include eligible immigrant households who file taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

In 2021, the General Assembly passed a powerful expansion of the EITC, meaningfully increasing the value of the credit for hundreds of thousands of low-income families across the state and ensuring that all eligible Marylanders could receive the credit. SB 404 would make the higher credit permanent, which would increase economic security for the families who receive it. **However, if passed as introduced, it would take the credit away from about 45,000 immigrant Maryland households who received the credit last year.**

Undocumented immigrants and other Marylanders who do not have Social Security numbers - despite working, filing, and paying taxes – were not eligible for the state EITC prior to 2021. Immigrants and undocumented individuals were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, while often simultaneously working in essential professions to keep Maryland safe and operating. The expanded EITC was one of the only relief measures they were eligible for.

Low-income individuals and families utilizing an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to file taxes should be included in our State's family economic supports. Poverty and the harmful impact of this massive public health crisis do not differentiate between Marylanders with documented status and those without.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to amend SB 404 to include all eligible taxpayers, or issue an unfavorable report.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.