

SB660 1.pdf

Uploaded by: Beth Wiseman

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 660

Income Tax - Caregiver Tax Credit

As an advocate for seniors and people with disabilities, I was very pleased to see this Bill. Unpaid caregivers are a group that deserve untold praise. Just ask one and hear the changes that had to be made with no reimbursement.

The first job is to make space for the loved one. I have seen families build an extra space or rearrange the rooms of the house. Then comes an extra bathroom or changing the present bathroom to accommodate the disabled with bars. Accommodations must be made for every set of stairs inside and outside.

An ever-increasing amount of equipment must be purchased to allow the new resident to function.

The Bill goes on to enumerate. I don't have to repeat.

But it doesn't mention the strain on the body, the sleepless nights, or the pain of seeing your loved one - the one who was once your strength and provider - deteriorate.

I am also about saving taxpayers money. By our providing this care, we are keeping our loved ones out of the costly facility care which Medicaid may one day have to cover.

All of this is done with love, care, and respect.

At my age of 82, you can imagine how many people I cared for.

I ask that you give this Bill a favorable vote.

Beth Wiseman

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SB660.Caregive Tax Credit.DDCoalition.FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 2, 2022

SB 660: Income Tax – Caregiver Tax Credit
Position: Support



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The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. As such, the DD Coalition supports SB 660.

According to American Community Survey estimates, 11% of Marylanders live with a disability. According to the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, approximately 90% of long-term services and supports received in the United States are provided by informal, unpaid caregivers such as family members, friends, and neighbors. The same is true in Maryland.

People with disabilities require a variety of support needs, the majority of which are provided by family caregivers. In recognition of this, in 2014, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), in partnership with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, began the Community of Practice for Supporting Families. This project recognizes families as the most important group of people in our society, serving as a source of support for all its members. For people with IDD, the role of family is unique, and often key in the support and care provided across the lifespan.

Maintaining the balance of work and care for oneself or a family member is a challenge for anyone, but is particularly challenging for people who provide that care to family members with disabilities. The effects of disability are intrinsically tied to issues of economic insecurity and instability.

- The Center for American Progress notes that **“disability or illness can lead to job loss and reduced earnings, barriers to education and skills development, significant additional expenses, and many other challenges that can lead to economic hardship.”**¹
- 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.**²
- 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 and by 29% if the worker is caring for an adult with disabilities or health issues.

This legislation begins to address some of the financial hardships caregivers face which have been amplified for many since the pandemic, and continue.

Contact:

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¹ January 2015. Center for American Progress, *A Fair Shot for Workers with Disabilities*.

² May 2011. The Arc. *2010 FINDS National Survey: Family and Individual Needs for Disability Support*.

Testimony- Care giver income tax.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Joanne C. Benson

Position: FAV

JOANNE C. BENSON
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—
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Joint Committees

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Ending Homelessness

Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson
SB 660: Income Tax - Caregiver Tax Credit

Good Afternoon Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and members of The Budget and Taxation Committee. I am here to present SB0660 Income Tax – Caregiver Tax Credit.

This legislation is critical to give caregivers financial and economic support in Maryland. Caregivers are the backbone of our society. They represent selflessness, patience, compassion, and dependability. Caregivers are responsible for the physical and emotional support of someone who can no longer care for themselves due to illness, injury, or disability. In addition, caregivers play an essential role in supporting individuals to function at their highest capability. Being a caregiver often includes providing support with financial and legal affairs for their family members. Moreover, Caregivers endure significant monetary consequences regarding both direct cash-based expenses and long-term financial and retirement security.

This bill's purpose is to allow certain caregivers a tax credit against state income tax for qualifying expenses paid or incurred during a taxable year. As an income tax credit for caregivers, this expertise must be directly related to family members.

This bill helps caregivers by straightforwardly reducing how much taxes they owe in a taxable year. Doing so will empower caregivers to have more financial resources to support themselves and their loved ones.

Thus, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB0660.

SB 660 Caregiver Tax Credit.pdf

Uploaded by: Tammy Bresnahan

Position: FAV



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SB 660 Income Tax - Caregiver Tax Credit
FAVORABLE
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 2, 2022

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families. Key priorities of our organization include helping all Marylanders achieve financial and health security.

AARP MD and its almost 870,000 members support SB 660 Caregiver Tax Credit. We thank Senator Benson for sponsoring this critical piece of legislation and for championing this bill for family caregivers.

Most of us are, have been, or will be a family caregiver or will need help to live independently. This is an ageless and nonpartisan issue. Family caregivers are all ages, races, and ethnicities and cut across all segments of our population. Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country. They help make it possible for older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans to live independently in their homes and communities.

The physical, emotional, and financial challenges they face in their caregiving roles cannot be overstated and, for many, the challenges have increased with COVID19. There is also a significant economic impact as Maryland family caregivers provide millions of dollars annually in unpaid care to their loved ones. They face out-of-pocket expenses to assist their loved ones as well as potential income and retirement savings foregone.

In a recent AARP report nearly eight in ten caregivers (78 percent) report regularly spending their own money on caregiving expenses. The report also found that family caregivers spend, on average, 26 percent of their income on caregiving expenses or \$7,240 annually. Their assistance helps save taxpayer dollars by helping to delay or prevent more costly nursing home care and unnecessary hospital stays. The Caregiver Tax Credit would create a new, tax credit of up to \$5,000 for eligible family caregivers to help address the financial challenges of caregiving.

The Caregiver Tax Credit is an important step for the Maryland Legislature to show support for family caregivers and we ask for a favorable report on SB 660. If you have questions or need follow up, please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

