



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 641 – Income Tax – Theatrical Production Tax Credit House Ways and Means Committee February 16, 2022

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
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Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 641 – Income Tax – Theatrical Production Tax Credit. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

We have an opportunity to dramatically increase theatrical productions in our state. HB 641 creates the Theatrical Production Tax Credit, structured in the same way as the highly successful Film Activity Tax Credit, with the same level of transparency, accountability, and benefit to Maryland workers and their families, as well as the benefits for our small businesses and the economy.

HB 641 sets up the path for theatrical productions to be one of Maryland's permanent economic engines by providing stability and predictability to an industry whose contributions to the economy are a trifecta – and the winners are small businesses, family-sustaining careers, and local and state economies. This is critical to ensuring a solid business climate, and one that assures continued investment by the theatrical industry in Maryland to create good jobs and grow our economy.

We ask for a favorable report on HB 641.