



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 992 – Income Tax – Earned Income Credit – Alteration and Sunset Repeal
House Ways and Means Committee
March 2, 2022

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 992 – Income Tax – Earned Income Credit – Alteration and Sunset Repeal. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

A large segment of Maryland's workforce struggles, day to day, to make ends meet. These are people with jobs with low pay and little to no benefits. We should be looking for ways to help these struggling Marylanders move up the income ladder, join the middle class, and get some breathing room to plan for their futures.

HB 992 stops the allowable percentage to be used for the purposes of determining the refund from decreasing from 45% to 28% at the end of 2022. Instead, it keeps the allowable percentage at 45% permanently. Additionally, it sets the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) up to have annual cost-of-living adjustments, allowing it to keep pace with inflation. Low income workers will benefit from these changes, and we owe it to them to ensure that Maryland's tax policy addresses the needs of everyone.

For freedom and equity, we ask for a favorable report on HB 992.