



Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 992 – Income Tax - Earned Income Tax Credit - Alteration and Sunset Repeal*
Ways and Means Committee
March 2, 2022

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools and community centers, and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the entire Jewish community.

The JCRC has a long history of “championing the poor and the needy,” and has always been a strong supporter of the Earned Income Tax Credit as an effective tool to lift people out of poverty. House Bill 992 is critical to attaining that goal in that it solidifies recent changes to the EITC program by altering the percentage of the federal earned income tax credit used for determining the amount that an individual may claim as a refund under the Maryland earned income tax credit. HB 992 also repeals a limitation on the amount individuals may claim as a refund under the credit beginning after December 31, 2021, and allows certain residents to continue to claim the credit for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.

The JCRC has been on the forefront of efforts to reduce economic poverty in the United States. In addition to the Jewish immigrant experience in this nation, the concept of “Tikkun Olam” (repair the world) requires Jews to work for the welfare of all persons. Moreover, Judaism embodies a sense of ethical responsibility to everybody in our nation to assure them the basic necessities of life and to use our efforts to provide all people with the ability to maintain their economic well-being and dignity. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 992.