



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**February 9, 2022**

**HB 466**

**Income Tax-Personal Exemption-Disabled Individuals**

**House Ways & Means Committee**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

House Bill 466 aims to expand the existing personal exemptions for disabled individuals under the Maryland income tax; allowing an individual that has a permanent physical disability, including blindness to claim the additional deduction. Currently, Maryland’s income tax only allows for an additional deduction if the individual is a blind.

The Conference works to support legislation that benefits the members of our community in a positive and non-discriminatory way. House Bill 466 aims to do just that by expanding the existing eligibility to personal exemptions under the State income tax and easing the burden on some of Maryland’s most vulnerable citizens.

House Bill 466 would have a direct and immediate effect on individuals who simply cannot make ends meet and would provide a meaningful boost to individuals and their families, enabling them to make necessary purchases and take care of basic needs. It also provides a pathway to financial stability; with more money coming back to the taxpayer, it can go into a myriad of different places to assist in being lifted out of poverty, including savings accounts and educational expenses.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 466.