



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 707
Office of the Comptroller – Taxpayer Advocate Division
House Appropriations Committee

March 14, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer favorable testimony in strong support of House Bill 707. This critical legislation plays a key role in strengthening the resources and systems available to taxpayers.

With over 122,000 Black and Latino immigrant members, CASA is the largest immigrant rights organization in the mid-Atlantic region and a national leader in advocacy for immigrant rights. Now a national immigrant powerhouse, CASA creates change with its model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy in order to serve the full spectrum of needs, dreams, and aspirations of members.

One of the many services CASA provides is free tax preparation clinics. CASA runs VITA sites in Baltimore City, Prince George's, and Montgomery County. We help over 1,000 taxpayers each year to file their taxes for free, providing services in English, Spanish, and French. CASA members are proud to support legislation that leads with equity and inclusion such as HB 707 which will be a critical step in ensuring our most vulnerable Marylanders have their voices heard by having an office specifically for matters of helping them to better navigate tax issues.

The creation of the Taxpayer Advocate Division in the Office of the Comptroller to assist taxpayers and their representatives in resolving certain taxpayer problems and complaints and represent taxpayers' interests will benefit many Marylanders. It will especially benefit newly arrived immigrant families who are doing their due diligence and ensuring they are compiling with filing their taxes but find the process daunting and difficult.

CASA strongly urges a favorable report of HB 707.