



Senate Bill 0141- Income Tax-Subtraction Modification for Adoption Expenses-Alterations

Position: Favorable

January 25, 2023
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Adoptions Together appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 0141. Adoptions Together serves birth parents, adoptees, families formed through adoption, kinship, or guardianship, and those in or at risk of involvement in the child welfare system in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Since 1990 we have helped settle and sustain more than 15,000 families and children in birth, foster, kinship, guardianship, and adoptive families and have provided ongoing support through our counseling and educational programs.

Each year we work with over a hundred Maryland families through our domestic infant adoption program, foster care adoption program, and home study services who are choosing to grow their families through adoption. We know that caring for and supporting children in a family requires access to support and resources, and that the cost of adoption can create a significant financial burden for many Maryland families. In addition to access to high quality, trauma-informed, adoption competent services, we know that families are more stable when they have the financial resources to meet their needs.

Increasing the amount that can be deducted for families who adopt a child who is a state resident and no longer requiring that the deduction be used to only cover necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, and other expenses at the time of adoption is one way to help alleviate the significant expense that families face both before and after an adoption is finalized. We know that there is an urgent need for adoptive families in the state of Maryland, and it is essential that the cost of adopting does not pose a barrier for families interested in adopting. We also know that adding a child to any family comes with a significant cost, far beyond the cost of expenses needed to finalize an adoption.

We thank Senator Elfreth for her support of this bill, and hope that Maryland's families can receive the financial support needed to make adoption possible and ensure that adoptive families have the resources they need to thrive.

For additional information, please contact:

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