

Chante Westfield
Client Leadership Council, Capital Area Food Bank
SB0552 – Family Prosperity Act of 2023
Budget and Taxation Committee
Hearing Date 3/1/2023 at 1pm
Testimony of SUPPORT

My name is Chante' Westfield, a lifelong resident of Maryland. I'm a proud member of Capital Area Food Bank's Client Leadership Council program. I'm a mom of three young children ages 8 months, 7 and 8 years old.

Senate Bill 0552 is truly a lifesaver to low income families such as mine.

Unfortunately I had to stop working during the pandemic because we loss child care. Despite my partner working full time hours including overtime opportunities in healthcare my family struggles to make ends meet. Being essential workers during the pandemic was honorable but honor can't pay the bills.

Senate Bill 0552 has helped my family in more ways than one.

The extra credit during the pandemic helped reduce debt. By having extra money we were able to pay more on the bills we were behind on.

It is much appreciated! Anything is always better than nothing!

I know this for a fact because this past month my family was homeless!

We were evicted from our apartment because we owed the rent that we weren't able to pay during the pandemic.

This caused my kids to miss several weeks of school.

The pandemic knocked us off track and we weren't able to catch back up. Late fees on top of the back rent made it extremely hard.

Fortunately my family has found housing. By continuing the distribution of this credit it will assist us in staying current on our rent as well as other bills such as utilities, food and clothing for everyone.

This bill will help keep a roof over my family's head, keep us stable and allow my kids to further their education without the added stress of homelessness.

Not knowing where you are going to live is very scary.

So for these reasons I encourage a favorable vote on Senate Bill 0552. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify.