



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

February 23, 2023

**SB 420**

**Human Services – Temporary Cash Assistance – Housing Allowance**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 420 requires a local department of social services to provide a housing allowance to certain households receiving temporary cash assistance; requiring the continuation of a housing allowance for a certain time period under certain circumstances; and generally relating to temporary cash assistance.

The Maryland Catholic Conferences supports policies that protect human life and dignity, strengthen families, encourage and reward work, preserve a safety net for the vulnerable, and build public/private partnerships to overcome poverty. State policies should form a "Circle of Protection" around programs that serve poor and vulnerable people in our communities and avoid placing additional burdens on people and families struggling to live in dignity. Senate Bill 420 seeks to add a housing allowance for TCA recipients and eligible individuals. Making a much-needed improvement to greatly benefit our most vulnerable Marylanders.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 420.