

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0312.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



March 23rd, 2023

SB 312

Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders - Funding - Repeal of Sunset

House Ways & Means Committee

Position: Favorable

The 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 312 repeals the termination date of certain provisions of law requiring the Comptroller to distribute a certain amount of certain abandoned property funds to the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund which provides grants to the University of Maryland School of Law, the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service to operate tax clinics for low-income Maryland residents.

The basis for all that the Church believes about the moral dimensions of economic life is its vision of the transcendent worth—the sacredness—of human beings. The Second Vatican Council stated, *"The dignity of the human person, realized in community with others, is the criterion against which all aspects of economic life must be measured."* All human beings, therefore, are ends to be served by the institutions that make up the economy, not means to be exploited for more narrowly defined goals. Senate Bill 312 affords low-income Marylanders the opportunity to attend tax preparation programs in pursuit of economic justice and a common good within society.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a **favorable** report for Senate Bill 312.

SB312_Zucker_FAV_WAM.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Craig Zucker

Position: FAV

CRAIG J. ZUCKER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 122
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3625 • 301-858-3625
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625
Fax 410-841-3618 • 301-858-3618
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 312 – Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders - Funding - Repeal of
Sunset
House Ways and Means Committee
March 23, 2023
1:00pm
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support** of **Senate Bill 312 – Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders - Funding - Repeal of Sunset**.

Senate Bill 312 repeals the sunset that would end the tax clinics for low-income Marylanders program in fiscal year 2023 and mandates the Governor to appropriate \$250,000 to the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders fund each fiscal year.

The funds will continue to be equally distributed among the University of Maryland School of Law, the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service to operate tax clinics for low-income Maryland residents.

Senate Bill 312 is in the same posture as its crossfile, House Bill 346 – both of which passed their chambers with unanimous support.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 312. Thank you for your consideration.