



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 16, 2023

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 547, *Family Prosperity Act of 2023*
Support

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of House Bill 547, *Family Prosperity Act of 2023*. The proposal removes the sunset on legislation that passed during the 2021 Session allowing for a substantial increase in the State’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), expanded to include taxpayers that did not have social security numbers. The bill also repeals the limit on the amount of tax credits a taxpayer without a “qualifying child” may claim. Finally, the bill greatly improves upon the existing State Child Tax Credit by broadening the definition of “qualified child” to include any child under the age of six and increasing eligible taxpayer income limits.

The permanent extension of a greatly enhanced EITC and the expansion of the Child Tax Credit provide ample evidence that Maryland policy makers understand the value of these programs and the difference they can make in the lives of low-income families in our State. Twenty-eight other states and the District of Columbia also leverage the federal credits by providing their own. It is a response to the question of why, in a country like the United States, with tremendous assets and wealth, should we be okay with children living in poverty and what can we do to change that dynamic?

As the County Executive of Montgomery County, I am just as impassioned. For many years now, the County has provided a match to the State’s refundable EITC. Like the State, we know that providing this additional support for our low and moderate-income earners reduces the likelihood of workers being taxed into poverty.

We also know what the research shows – that the EITC:

- supports and encourages work;
- helps provide resources to cover the basics, including rent;

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- benefits local economies;
- helps promote racial equity and reduces poverty for communities of color;
- improves long-term outcomes for the children of recipients; and
- is a program that is almost always supported “across the aisles.”

For all of these reasons I urge you to act expeditiously on House Bill 547 by advancing it to the House Floor as soon as possible.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee