

Dear Chair Atterbeary and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am a resident of District 8. I am testifying in support of SB0552. This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with CASA.



The last three years have been tumultuous for Maryland families. The Maryland General Assembly made strides to address these difficulties by expanding the earned income and child tax credit to include *all* Marylanders regardless of immigration status.

While we are passed the pandemic-era shutdowns, difficulties continue for many families. Prices for basic necessities continue to climb, and wages haven't always kept pace. After being excluded from receiving thousands of dollars in federal and state Covid relief stimulus payments, undocumented immigrant communities have faced the brunt of this economic crisis.

Federal, state, and local working family tax credits are the most powerful anti-poverty tools we have, and our legislators must pass the Family Prosperity Act to preserve the strong and inclusive EITC expansions. These credits help people navigate times of crisis, reduce the number of children growing up in poverty, and strengthen our economy. Research shows that the EITC and CTC substantially benefit women and communities of color, and boosts maternal and infant health, school performance, and future earnings.

The Family Prosperity Act will invest in *all* of Maryland's families to create a stronger future. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0552**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
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