

My name is Chante' Westfield, a resident of Baltimore County. I'm a proud member of Capital Area Food Bank's Client Leadership Council program.

House Bill 547 is truly a lifesaver to low-income families such as mine. Despite working full time including overtime opportunities we struggle to make ends meet.

It has helped my family in more ways than one. The extra credit during the pandemic helped reduce debt by having the extra money to pay more on bills. It is much appreciated. Just this past month my family was homeless. We were evicted from our apartment. This caused my kids to miss so much school. The pandemic knocked us off track and we couldn't catch back up. 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 House Bill 547.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify.