

Dear Dear Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

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 also working in collaboration with CASA. I am a resident of District 46 and **I am testifying in support of SB0552, the Family Prosperity Act.**



In 2021 the Maryland General Assembly passed the most effective anti-poverty and pro-low-income families legislation seen in the country - benefiting 450,000 families, and putting roughly \$275 million into our communities. The expansion of the earned income and child tax credit to include all Marylanders regardless of immigration status uplifted thousands of hardworking, tax-paying Maryland families facing economic problems during the pandemic.

However, we know that economic recovery from the pandemic-era shutdowns has been disproportionate. After being excluded from receiving thousands of dollars in federal and state Covid relief stimulus payments undocumented immigrant communities have faced the brunt of the economic crisis. With price increases, stagnant wages, and high inflation it is imperative that the General Assembly make permanent the progress they green-lit in 2021.

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.

Exclusion from tax benefits due to immigration status is unfair. We've recognized that people who are working and raising kids ought to receive tax credits to help them take care of their families. This is a societal good that holds true for all families. If someone is working and paying taxes, they should not be excluded from this tax credit just because they are undocumented.

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,

**Lindsay Keipper**

**2425 Fleet St.**

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore