

Brannon Jackson testimonysb0064.pdf

Uploaded by: Brannon Jackson

Position: FAV

Testimony of Brannndon D. Jackson

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. I am here to present on the Income Tax -Credit for Parent and Guardian Volunteers in Elementary and Secondary School Schools SB0064.

There are six primary types of parental engagement, and everything else branches off these six concepts:

1. Communication between parents and teachers/administration
2. Volunteer opportunities with the school or school functions
3. Role in the academic decision-making process
4. At-home learning and development
5. Community collaboration
6. Parenting

These functions of engagement are critical for every scholar as they matriculate through academia. Research shows when the community is involved:

1. Positive impact on academic achievement
2. Safer schools and communities
3. Students feel emotionally supported.
4. Mitigate bullying.
5. Increase accountability for students, staff, and the administration, to name a few.

Parental engagement is the marquee indicator for success in every school system, and every constituent should be afforded the opportunity to leverage it regardless of their level of income.

Today, as we work to stabilize the economy and combat inflation, everyday citizens feel the tightening of their purse strings. And parents call me to express their dilemma: to either forego wages or engage in school activities.

This is a horrible situation to be in. This bill is a step in the right direction. Giving parents the opportunity to maintain their wages while volunteering will be a tremendous step in helping to further stabilize our community.

Every child should have the appropriate infrastructure to support their academic future. We make that possible by helping to level the playing field with this piece of legislation.

Parental engagement should always be a question of willingness, not affordability.

Thus, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB0064

SB 64 FINAL WR Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Giavante Hawkins

Position: FAV



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Executive Director

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals

Re: SB 64

Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins

Position: IN FAVOR

Income Tax- Credit for Employers Providing Parental Engagement Leave

As the representative voice of over 2,000 tax and accounting professionals through the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP), I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 64 to create a Parental Engagement Tax Credit.

Our members provide essential tax, accounting, payroll, and advisory services to well over 700,000 Maryland residents and job-creating small businesses. From this broad expertise and experience assisting local employers, we believe Senate Bill 64 would meaningfully benefit children, working parents, businesses, and the state economy.

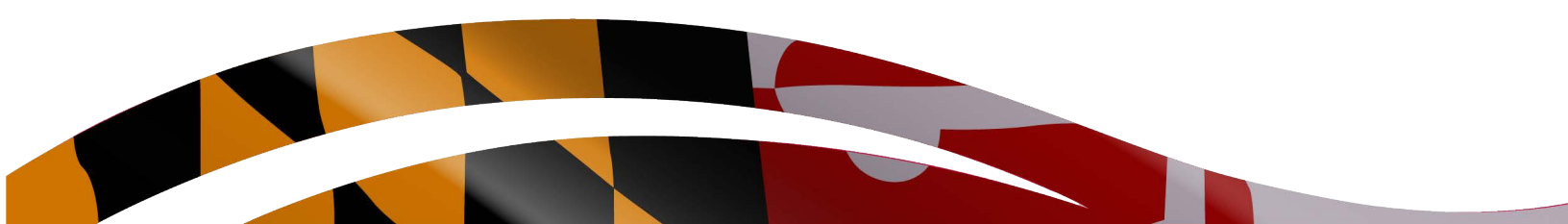
Specifically, Senate Bill 64 offers multiple advantages:

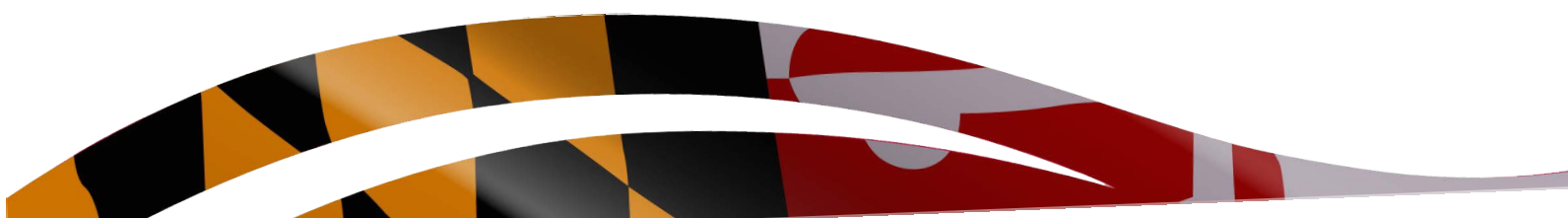
1. It provides an incentive for small and medium businesses to adopt paid leave policies benefiting working parents - a vital component of Maryland's workforce. The bill makes offering this additional benefit affordable for more employers.
2. By facilitating parent attendance at school meetings and events, the bill promotes parent engagement and involvement to improve children's educational experiences and outcomes.
3. As a refundable tax credit carrying forward up to 5 years, the bill delivers real economic relief to businesses still recovering from pandemic challenges. Thriving small businesses strengthen communities and tax revenue.

MSATP respectfully asks the Budget & Taxation Committee for a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 64. Our tax professionals view this targeted, bipartisan legislation as a creative win for Maryland's children, parents, employers, workforce, and fiscal health.

Thank you for consideration of this quality legislation lifting up Marylanders across the state. I welcome any questions from Committee members on the tax implications or projected impacts.

Giavante Hawkins





Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV_SB64.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenny Kraska

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE**

January 24, 2024

SB 64

Income Tax – Credit for Employers Providing Parental Engagement Leave

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill 64. 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 64 aims to provide employers with a tax credit for offering parental engagement leave to qualified employees during the taxable year.

Fostering a strong connection between parents and their children is a social imperative and the MCC recognizes the sacred and fundamental role that parents play in the upbringing and development of their children. The bonds formed within families are crucial foundations for a harmonious and morally grounded society. This legislation promotes the active involvement of parents in their children’s lives through parental engagement leave.

This bill not only acknowledges the importance of the parent-child relationship but also encourages employers to support their employees in balancing work and family responsibilities. The tax credit serves as an incentive for businesses to adopt family-friendly policies, contributing to the overall well-being of both employees and their families.

By acknowledging and accommodating the needs of working parents, we contribute to building a society that values the core principles of our faith. This legislation has the potential to strengthen families, fortify our communities, and is important to fostering a society where the sacred bond between parents and children is revered and nurtured.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 64.

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Uploaded by: Joanne C Benson

Position: FAV

JOANNE C. BENSON
Legislative District 24
Prince George's County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

Chair, Rules Committee

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson
SB 64: Income Tax – Credit for Employers Providing Parental Engagement Leave

Good afternoon, Chairman Guzzone and esteemed members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. Today I vehemently proffer testimony in vigorous support of Senate Bill 64, an “*Income Tax – Credit for Employers Providing Parental Engagement Leave*.” This bill provides:

“ a tax credit for employers who provide [...] parental engagement leave to qualified employees during the taxable year [...] by requiring] the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Comptroller, to [provide] a certain certification form [which requires qualified employees to] obtain [required county board member *and* school personnel signatures]; making the credit refundable [per circumstance].”

Ultimately, the purpose of this bill is to provide a positive incentive which allows employers who provide parental engagement leave to certain qualified employees during the taxable year a credit against the State income tax.

This matter strikes my passions, and as I reflect upon a storied career, a story from it is relevant here. When I was a principal, our County superintendent implemented an eight week partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, whereby each public school partnered with a county business. Mentors from each business worked with children and teachers alike. As a result, we saw increased academic performance, a highly motivated school population, and more parental involvement.

I believe with the passing of this bill and all of the positive outcomes that surely will come with it, Senate Bill 64’s tax credit for employers against income tax would help in raising the bar for our children. Let us not forget, our children rest in the primary purpose of this legislation.

I, therefore, request a positive response to this very important bill. And, we all know, a positive response necessitates a committee report fervently in favor of Senate Bill 64.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and importantly, thank all of you: my fellow committee members. I *always* appreciate your time and am counting on your continued support.