



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

10451 Mill Run Circle #625
Owings Mills, MD 21117

1-800-922-9672
410-876-5998

FAX 443-881-4146
www.msatp.org

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To: Ways and Means

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals

Re: HB 608

Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins

Position: OPPOSE

Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children Eligibility

I write today on behalf of the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP), which represents over 2,000 accounting and tax professionals serving hundreds of thousands of Maryland taxpayers. In supporting working families, we worry that House Bill 608 risks deepening budget shortfalls, lacking equivalent offsets to reconcile over \$30 million in projected Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) expansion costs. We reluctantly oppose the bill.

Maryland faces pandemic economic strains on vital services as revenues trail forecasts. While aiding childless earners is important, increasing EITC subsidies without corresponding spending cuts or revenue raisers to offset the fiscal impact could worsen budget gaps.

Additionally, no bill requirements ensure new costs fund targeted education, job training, and childcare supports to lift economic opportunity rather than temporarily plug budget holes. Without tight earmarks linking expenses to outcomes, short-term relief may imperil long-term prosperity for families without careful implementation.

We ask the Committee to closely weigh tradeoffs to enact sustainable empowerment of struggling workers, not just temporary relief lacking support help transcend poverty. Please contact us to explore improving the legislation with skills programs funding or resources assisting sustainable income growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Giavante Hawkins

