



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – HB 032 – Income Tax – Caregiver Tax Credit

Dear Chair Atterbeary and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) and as its Communication Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB 032 Income Tax – Caregiver Tax Credit**, sponsored by Senator Benson. This bill will establish a tax credit of 30% of the qualified expenses paid during the taxable year that exceed \$2,000; not to exceed \$5,000 or the state income tax imposed for that tax year for individual whose income does not exceed \$75,000 for an individual or \$150,00 joint return.

By the numbers:

- 53M U.S. adults are currently caregiving¹, up from 43.5 million in 2015, and includes caregivers who also work full-time jobs¹.
- The number of people providing care and working outside the home has increased for 1 in 7 in 2020 to 1 in 5 today²
- Seventy-three percent (73%) of all employees have some type of current caregiving responsibility³ up from 16% in 2019 and 22% in 2022
- The majority of caregivers are women (56%)
- Nearly a quarter of caregivers of an elderly or sick adult also have young children under the age of 18. These caregivers belong to the “sandwich generation.”
- Fewer than half of workers have communicated about their caregiving responsibilities with their managers.

¹ [Two Income Families Statistics and Trends in 2023](#), Gitnux Marketdata Report 2023, 2023

² [1 in 5 Americans Now Provide Unpaid Family Care](#), AARP 2022

³ [Supporting Employee Caregivers Starts with Better Data](#), Harvard Business Review, 2022

Who are caregivers providing care for?

Groups receiving care from working adults



41%

Parent



20%

Someone else



29%

Special-needs child



18%

Spouse/Partner

- Most U.S. households (61%) depend on two incomes to remain financially stable²
- Caregivers are twice as likely as non-caregivers to have experienced a layoff (6% versus 3%),
- 20% say that their caregiving responsibilities have limited their career growth and job opportunities.
- 29% of caregivers have had to reduce their work hours as opposed to only 14% of non-caregivers.
- Twenty-seven percent of caregivers were out of work last year for an extended period of at least 30 days due to a condition, illness, or injury compared to only 14% of non-caregivers.
- One in 5 caregivers have taken a leave of absence and/or a demotion to accommodate their caregiving duties.
- In 2020, caregivers spent an average of nine hours per week providing care.⁴ In 2023, that has increased to an average of 26 hours per week. Almost half spend 10–29 hours of their week devoted to caregiving, and 27% spend 30 hours or more providing care.

Time devoted to caregiving

Average hours per week



- Eight in 10 caregivers report having routine out-of-pocket expenses related to looking after their loved ones.

⁴ [Guardian 8th Annual Workplace Benefits Study](#), 2020

- The typical annual total is \$7,242 or 26% of their income

Here are some of the common tasks caregivers do:

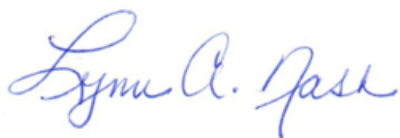
- Buy groceries, cook, clean house, do laundry, provide transportation
- Help the care receiver get dressed, take a shower, take medicine
- Transfer someone out of bed/chair, help with physical therapy, perform medical interventions—injections, feeding tubes, wound treatment, breathing treatments
- Arrange medical appointments, drive to the doctor, sit in during appointments, monitor medications
- Talk with doctors, nurses, care managers, and others to understand what needs to be done
- Spend time handling crises and arranging for assistance—especially for someone who cannot be left alone
- Handle finances and other legal matters
- Be a companion
- Be a (usually) unpaid aide, on call 24/7

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports HB 032** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Ways and Means Committee. Establishing a Caregiver Tax Credit enhances the Moore Administration’s Year of the Military Families and is in keeping with the Governor’s mantra: “Leave No One Behind”

The Maryland Military Coalition is a non-partisan organization of 21 Veteran organizations representing over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families -- almost half of the 355,000 veterans in the State.

We want to thank Delegate Harrison for sponsoring this legislation and her strong, support of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,



Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPTAIN (Ret)., U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

¹ [Supporting Caregivers](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021

² [Two Income Families Statistics and Trends in 2023](#), Gitnux Marketdata Report 2023, 2023

³ [1 in 5 Americans Now Provide Unpaid Family Care](#), AARP 2022

⁴ [Supporting Employee Caregivers Starts with Better Data](#), Harvard Business Review, 2022

⁵ [Guardian 8th Annual Workplace Benefits Study](#), 2020

⁶ [Standing Up and Stepping In: A modern look at caregivers in the U.S.](#), 2023

⁷ [The U.S. "has become a nation of caregivers," expert says](#), Yahoo! Finance, 2023