



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 6, 2025

HB603

Earned Income Tax Credit - Notice of Eligibility - Alteration
Ways and Means Committee
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of **House Bill 603**. The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) 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.

House Bill 603 modifies the way the Comptroller informs employers about the income eligibility requirements for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Instead of relying solely on traditional methods, this legislation ensures that notifications are also sent electronically, making the process more efficient and accessible for employers and employees.

Catholic social teaching upholds the dignity of work and the rights of workers, emphasizing the importance of fair wages and economic justice. The EITC is a key policy in supporting low-income workers, helping them achieve financial security and reduce economic inequality. By improving access to this credit, the legislation promotes social justice, ensures that hardworking individuals receive the financial support they are entitled to, and aligns with the Church's call to protect the poor and vulnerable.

By streamlining the notification process, this bill helps ensure that more eligible workers are aware of and can claim the EITC, a crucial tool for reducing poverty and supporting low-income families. Increased awareness can lead to greater financial stability for working families, stimulate local economies, and reduce reliance on public assistance programs. Employers also benefit from a simplified and modernized process for staying informed about tax credit eligibility.

The MCC appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a favorable report for **House Bill 603**.