



Testimony - SB 468, Local Government - Grant for Recipients of State Child Tax Credit -
Authorization
Favorable
House Ways & Means Committee
April 2, 2026
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Honorable Chairwoman Wilkins & Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents thousands of public service workers across Maryland—educators, school support staff, higher education employees, and public sector professionals. Many of our members are working parents. They are the backbone of our communities, and they are doing everything right—working hard, raising children, and contributing to our State—yet too many are still struggling to make ends meet.

SB 468 takes an important step toward addressing child poverty and economic instability by empowering counties to build on the State’s Child Tax Credit. By authorizing local governments to provide supplemental grants and county-level tax credits to low-income families with young children, this legislation creates a flexible, locally driven pathway to deliver meaningful financial relief to those who need it most.

Our members—educational support professionals, school staff, and childcare workers—see firsthand the challenges that working families face every day. Too many families are forced to make impossible choices between housing, food, childcare, and transportation. These economic pressures directly impact students’ ability to succeed in the classroom and place additional strain on the public workforce that supports them.

SB 468 recognizes that modest, targeted income supports can make a significant difference. By allowing counties to provide additional assistance to families earning under \$15,000, this bill ensures that the lowest-income households—those most at risk

of falling through the cracks—can receive critical support. Importantly, the bill also provides counties with the flexibility to design programs that reflect local needs, including determining benefit amounts and whether excess credits may be refundable.

For SEIU Local 500 members, this is not just tax policy—it is education policy, workforce policy, and equity policy. When families are more economically secure, students are better prepared to learn, and schools are better able to meet their mission. Investments like these help stabilize communities and reduce the burdens placed on public services.

We also appreciate that SB 468 builds on an existing framework, leveraging the State's Child Tax Credit to streamline implementation and maximize impact. This thoughtful approach will help ensure that benefits reach eligible families efficiently while allowing counties to participate at their own pace.

SEIU Local 500 strongly supports policies that uplift working families and strengthen the communities our members serve. SB 468 does exactly that by giving local governments the tools to expand economic opportunity and support children during their most critical developmental years.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 468.

Thank you for your time and consideration.