



LEAD  | LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION & ACTION DELIVERS

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Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 717

“Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children - Eligibility”

TO: Senator Guzzone, Chair, Senator Rosapepe, Vice Chair, and other members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Allison Berkowitz, Legislative Director of LEAD (Legislative Education & Action Delivers)

As a social worker, I see people in their most desperate moments, and also get to see them rise to the occasion under the right circumstances. In a world and time like ours, when not everyone starts off on the same footing, it is the right and just thing to do, to help others. I’m writing today to testify in support of Senate Bill 717. About one in ten Marylanders live in poverty, and by expanding the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit), we can give individuals a little lift to help get them on even footing.

Currently, young workers either can’t receive a credit or receive a very small amount. This expansion could make a big difference in a lot of Marylanders’ homes and equate to real, meaningful action, like keeping the lights on or food on the table. Additionally, studies show that the money brought into these people’s homes by receiving the credit would stay in the local economy, so by increasing this credit, we’re also helping local economies. It is with all this in mind that **I fervently support SB 717, and urge each of you to give it a favorable report.** Thank you.