



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 93 – TAX CREDITS – EMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES  
Senator Benjamin Kramer**

**January 18, 2022**

**DONALD C. FRY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

**Position: Support**

Senate Bill 93 alters the amount of the tax credit that can be claimed by employers who have hired employees with disabilities. This bill would increase the tax credit for work related childcare or transportation expenses paid for by the employer from \$900 to \$1500. In addition, the bill increases the tax credit allowed for wages paid to each qualified employee with a disability from 30% of the first \$9,000 of wages paid to 30% of \$15,000. Both provisions remain applicable to the first two years of employment.

Employers are sometimes hesitant to hire workers with disabilities, despite the economic benefits to both the business and the community. The Melwood Economic Impact Study, which investigated the economic impact of Melwood's own workforce in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, showed that its 1,200 disabled workers alone paid more almost \$12 million in federal, state, and local taxes. They also earned almost \$28 million in wages, some of which would be circulated back into the economy and small businesses. The study did not take into account possible savings to local and state governments from reduced reliance on government support by individuals with disabilities.

The GBC supports Senate Bill 93 because it incentivizes employers to employ workers with disabilities. The increased tax credit encourage businesses to continue to employ workers with disabilities at a time where many are experiencing significant financial insecurity as the result of the pandemic.

This bill is consistent with a key tenets in *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth.

**Strategic and effective state investments in business growth.** The state must commit to substantive strategic investments, leveraged with capital assets, to nurture business and job growth. Investments should include competitive and effective tax credits, business development incentives, and tactical initiatives to nurture private investment in industry growth.

**For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 93.**

*The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • [www.gbc.org](http://www.gbc.org)