



**SB 93**

**Maryland Works, Inc.**

**Senate Bill 93**

**Income Tax Credit for Qualifying Employees with a disability**

**Presented to the Budget & Taxation Committee  
January 18, 2022**

Good afternoon, Senator Kramer, and honorable committee members. My name is Mary Manzoni and I serve as the new CEO of Maryland Works. Maryland Works is a statewide association of non-profit community service providers and individual workforce development professionals who provide job training, employment, and business ownership opportunities for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. On behalf of our board of directors and members, I thank Senator Kramer for his ongoing support of the disability community and urge you to support SB93 so that there is an ongoing incentive for employers to hire individuals with disabilities.

SB93 enhances the availability of the "Disability Employment Tax Credit" and provides employers/businesses with monetary incentives to hire individuals with disabilities and veterans with disabilities.

The unemployment rate among Maryland adults with disabilities is about 40%. Most working age adults with disabilities want to work and can work, but they continue to face numerous physical and social barriers in the workplace. Helping employers cover some of the initial costs of hiring a worker with a disability can serve to overcome some of those barriers and increase the number of individuals who are working and paying taxes.

This important tax credit provides employers who hire people with disabilities a credit of 30% of the first \$15,000 in wages paid to a qualified individual with a disability during each of the first 2 years of employment. These credits enable employers to offset costs such as those associated with initial worker training or provision of workplace accommodations.

It is essential that Maryland continue to provide incentives, such as the Disability Employment Tax Credit, for employers to hire individuals with disabilities. SB93's passage is critical to ensure the ongoing availability of this important hiring incentive. On behalf of Maryland Works' board of directors and membership, thank you for your attention and consideration of SB93 and, I hope, your support of its passage.