



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 919

Income Tax – Child Tax Credit – Alterations and Sunset Extension  
House Ways and Means Committee  
February 22, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

### Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,  
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Maryland Community Action  
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

Public Justice Center

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

### Marylanders Against Poverty

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**Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports HB 919**, which would extend and expand the Maryland Child Tax Credit (CTC). This credit will be for people who make under \$15,000 and have a child under 6 or a child under 17 who has a disability.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed historic legislation, [Senate Bill 218](#), which created the state's first CTC. This created a temporary credit for families that make under \$6,000 and have a child that is under 17 years old and has a disability. The credit can be claimed for up to \$500 and only if the family did not receive the maximum federal CTC. This legislation was an important step at combating childhood poverty through tax credits; however, it is inadequate in continuing to provide low-income families relief.

Maryland has a particularly high rate of families living in "deep poverty," having income that is less than half of the federal poverty level, or about \$11,515 for a family of three. About half of Marylanders with income below the federal poverty level experience deep poverty.

Children that live in deep poverty have a hard time succeeding in school. Their families have less resources to devote to educational programs, especially ones that are before kindergarten. This means that these children are at higher risk of falling behind their peers. Research shows the CTC along with the EITC improves children's educational achievement<sup>1</sup>. Families that live in deep poverty also have decreased access to nutritious food and health services. Health issues experienced at a young age can have effects that will follow children throughout adulthood.

HB 919 will help low-income families and children in poverty by establishing a permanent credit and expanding eligibility requirements for Maryland families. This legislation would extend the credit so Maryland families can continue to claim it through 2026. This bill will also increase the income eligibility requirements to \$15,000, include all children 6 and younger, and allow families to claim the credit even if they receive the federal CTC.

The CTC is one of the most powerful tools governments use to lift children out of poverty. It is the most effective tool for cutting childhood poverty. HB 919 will improve last year's legislation by expanding the credit and reaching more Maryland families

**MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 919**

*Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.*

<sup>1</sup> [IRS: NEW EVIDENCE ON THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF TAX CREDITS](#)