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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### House Bill 992 – Income Tax – Earned Income Tax Credit – Alteration and Sunset Repeal Ways and Means Committee

March 3, 2022

## SUPPORT

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation  
American Jewish Committee  
Americans for Peace Now  
Baltimore Chapter  
American Israel Public Affairs Committee  
American Red Magen David for Israel  
American Zionist Movement  
Amit Women  
Association of Reform Zionists of America  
Baltimore Board of Rabbis  
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation  
Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance  
Baltimore Men's ORT  
Baltimore Zionist District  
Beth Am Congregation  
Beth El Congregation  
Beth Israel Congregation  
Beth Shalom Congregation of  
Howard County  
Beth Tfiloh Congregation  
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region  
B'nai Israel Congregation  
B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation  
Bolton Street Synagogue  
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.  
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation  
Chizuk Amuno Congregation  
Congregation Beit Tikvah  
Congregation Beth Shalom of  
Carroll County  
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel  
Federation of Jewish Women's  
Organizations of Maryland  
Hadassah  
Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation  
J Street  
Jewish Federation of Howard County  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish War Veterans  
Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary  
Jewish Women International  
Jews For Judaism  
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah  
Hebrew Congregation  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Ner Tamid Congregation  
Rabbinical Council of America  
Religious Zionists of America  
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation  
Shomrei Emunah Congregation  
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society  
Suburban Orthodox Congregation  
Temple Beth Shalom  
Temple Isaiah  
Zionist Organization of America  
Baltimore District

**Background:** House Bill 992, (HB992), if enacted, would help low-income individuals and families in Maryland by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in four ways. It would match 45% of the Federal EITC for low-income working families, match 100% of the Federal EITC for low-income single filers, maintain eligibility for ITIN filers and expand income eligible for single filers. Maryland's EITC is one of 28 in the nation that provide an additional resource to low-income residents who claim the federal EITC. This expansion would have a major impact on those experiencing poverty or near poverty.

**Written Comments:** The concept of human dignity is deeply rooted in Jewish teachings. When we give charity, or tzedakah, we are not only showing mercy for those less fortunate but recognizing them as part of our community and committing to sustaining their future. This is why the Baltimore Jewish Council advocates for agencies such as Jewish Community Services, which provides job training and employment support for community members.

We recognize that the EITC is a critical lifeline for those living in poverty. Since the state tax credit is based on an individual's or family's annual income, it can mean the difference between making and missing rent for someone with a sudden loss of income, preventing a domino effect that can trap those on the edge of poverty into a dangerous cycle. If passed HB992 would provide the added stability for low-income wage earners in Maryland, helping to keep them out of a cycle of poverty.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of HB992.

***The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.***

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