



Testimony to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB1105 Income Tax - Individual Income Tax Credit Eligibility Awareness Campaign
Position: Favorable

February 28, 2024

Sen. Guy Guzzone, Chair
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Cc: Members, Budget and Taxation Committee

Honorable Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition), a people-centered movement to expand economic rights, housing justice, and community reinvestment for working families, low-income communities, and communities of color. Economic Action Maryland provides direct assistance today while passing legislation and regulations to create systemic change in the future.

I am writing today to urge your favorable report on SB1105, which would establish an Individual Income Tax Credit Eligibility Awareness Campaign.

As a part of our direct assistance, Economic Action Maryland has been working to spread the word about beneficial tax credits such as the Renters' Tax Credit (RTC) and Homeowners' Tax Credit (HOTC) programs, as well as assisting those who are eligible throughout the application process. On the legislative side, Economic Action has been working to make this program more equitable and accessible, specifically for older adults.

Because of our work with tax credits, specifically within the older adult population in Maryland, we know first hand the impact a tax credit can have on the financial stability of a household. For many of our clients, the HOTC and RTC have given them the ability to age in place and pay for basic necessities without being priced out of the communities they have lived in for decades.

We believe tax credits are a powerful and financially empowering tool, and fully support any campaign that would spread awareness of them. People of all ages and backgrounds are struggling to get by as the cost of living has dramatically increased over the past few years, and they should be aware of the assistance that they qualify for.

For these reasons, we support SB1105 and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Zoe Gallagher, Policy Associate