



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 8, 2024

HB 451

Tax Assistance for Low-Income Marylanders - Funding

House Ways & Means Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 451 would allow for the distribution of abandoned property funds to the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund. It is important to address economic disparities and support initiatives that uplift the marginalized and vulnerable in our community.

The Catholic Church's social teachings underscore the importance of justice, solidarity, and the preferential option for the poor. By allocating funds to the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund, we contribute to the welfare of those struggling with financial hardships, recognizing the dignity of each person and their right to economic well-being.

Tax clinics play a vital role in ensuring that individuals with limited financial means have access to essential services and resources. By allocating funds to these clinics, we extend a lifeline to low-income Marylanders, helping them navigate complex tax systems and securing the financial support they need.

This legislation will take meaningful steps toward fostering a society that values the well-being of all its members, particularly those facing economic challenges. The MCC appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a favorable report for House Bill 451.