



THE VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESS

**SENATE BILL 14: EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT – INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT
QUALIFYING CHILDREN – EXPANSION**

SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

JANUARY 24, 2017

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports Senate Bill 14**, which expands the State earned income tax credit (EITC) available to individuals without qualifying children by (1) eliminating the requirement that the individual be at least 25 years old, (2) increasing the income thresholds at which the credit phases out, (3) increasing the percentage value of the credit to 100% of the federal credit, and (4) making the credit fully refundable.

The Chamber recognizes that EITC is one of the largest and successful anti-poverty program that helps people make ends meet while working low wage jobs. EITC helps to lift hundreds of thousands of Marylanders out of poverty each year – but there is a significant population of individuals without children that is being left behind. In Maryland, childless workers represent about 23% of all of the people who file for the EITC – but they only receiving about 4% of the total amount of the credit (again, this is because the amount of the refundable credit is so low – only \$23). Putting an extra \$500 in the pocket of a young worker can make the difference between taking the bus to work or putting a down payment on a car to get to a better job.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 14**.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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