



## Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition

# GREITCC

*Making a Difference in the Lives of Working Families*



Maureen S. Goode, MSW  
Chair of the Board  
Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition  
8600 Dixon Powers Drive  
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Members of the Senate Finance Health and Human Resources Subcommittee and members of the House Appropriations Health and Human Resources Subcommittee

Dear Senator/Delegate:

On behalf of the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition (GREITCC), I am writing to ask you to support budget item #344 to provide additional funding to Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) coalitions throughout the Commonwealth. GREITCC has provided free income tax preparation services that ensure the proper receipt of EITC in the Richmond metropolitan area since 2002. We regard EITC as investment in the lives of low-income working families, as well as local and regional economies. In the Richmond area alone, we intend to complete almost 1,300 returns for the current tax season. These returns will result in over \$600,000 in EITC refunds and about \$1.4 million in total refunds.

The Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) EITC Initiative received \$230,000 for the first year (fiscal 2006-2007) and \$230,000 the second year (2007-2008) to provide grants to local coalitions, such as the GREITCC, so that we can provide outreach, education, and free income tax preparation services to those who may be eligible for the federal EITC. GREITCC has been a grant recipient of the VCAP EITC Initiative for the last two year, \$14,000 for the first year and \$10,000 the second year.

We support the proposed budget amendment increase to \$250,000 for the VCAP EITC Initiative in budget item #344. This will match the prior year funding and include a modest increase that will allow VACAP to expand services to un-served areas of the Commonwealth and administration of the program.

Our coalition believes funding for the VCAP EITC Initiative is essential. It will benefit the Commonwealth by providing funding to coalitions throughout the state so we can help low-income workers achieve financial independence. It is well known that EITC has had a significant impact on the lives and communities of the lowest paid working people, lifting more than 5 million families above the poverty line each year. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Maureen S. Goode, MSW