



**Letters to the Editor**  
**September 25, 2007**

**Expansion of credit offsets tax increases**

Sun readers are getting a good overview of Gov. Martin O'Malley's emerging proposals for revenue enhancements thanks to the careful work of reporters Andrew A. Green and James Drew ("O'Malley details cut in income tax," Sept. 20). However, one key element of the governor's plan - an increase in the state's refundable earned income credit - deserves more attention. This piece of the plan is critical to the governor's goal of tax fairness because increasing the state's earned income credit will help offset the impact of regressive proposed tax increases, such as the 1-cent increase in sales tax, which weighs disproportionately on low-income families.

The earned income credit has been supported over the past three decades by leaders of both major political parties as a way to reward work and increase the income of low-wage households struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. O'Malley promised to address the state's shortfall while keeping the needs of the most vulnerable in mind.

His proposal to expand the state's earned income credit shows that he's serious about that commitment.

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