

To: Del. Anne Kaiser, Chair, House Ways & Means Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 1190

Good afternoon to the Chair and committee members, my name is Tia Toombs and I am a dedicated teacher in Baltimore City who works in a brand new 21st century school. Unfortunately, even with a state of the art institution, we are still lacking many of the basic supplies such as, copy paper, pencils, crayons, and tactile items for instruction because our district is underfunded.

But you all know this. You have listened to countless hours of testimony on why we need to pass the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. However, there are still questions about how to pay for it, which is just as important.

We should strongly consider measures that help continue to invest in the same communities that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future are supposed to help. That is why I am here today in support of HB 1190.

Reconstructing our tax system is the most effective way to make our tax system more equitable while raising significant revenue to improve our schools. Right now, working people like me are paying a higher percentage of their income to state taxes. This legislation would reduce income taxes for low- and moderate-income households while raising them for the wealthiest Marylanders. This includes restoring a higher 7% tax bracket for annual income above \$1 million.

Everyone should pay their fair share for the state's resources that we all use, especially if that allows us to provide more resources for our public schools. Help me to ensure success for every child in my classroom by passing HB 1190.