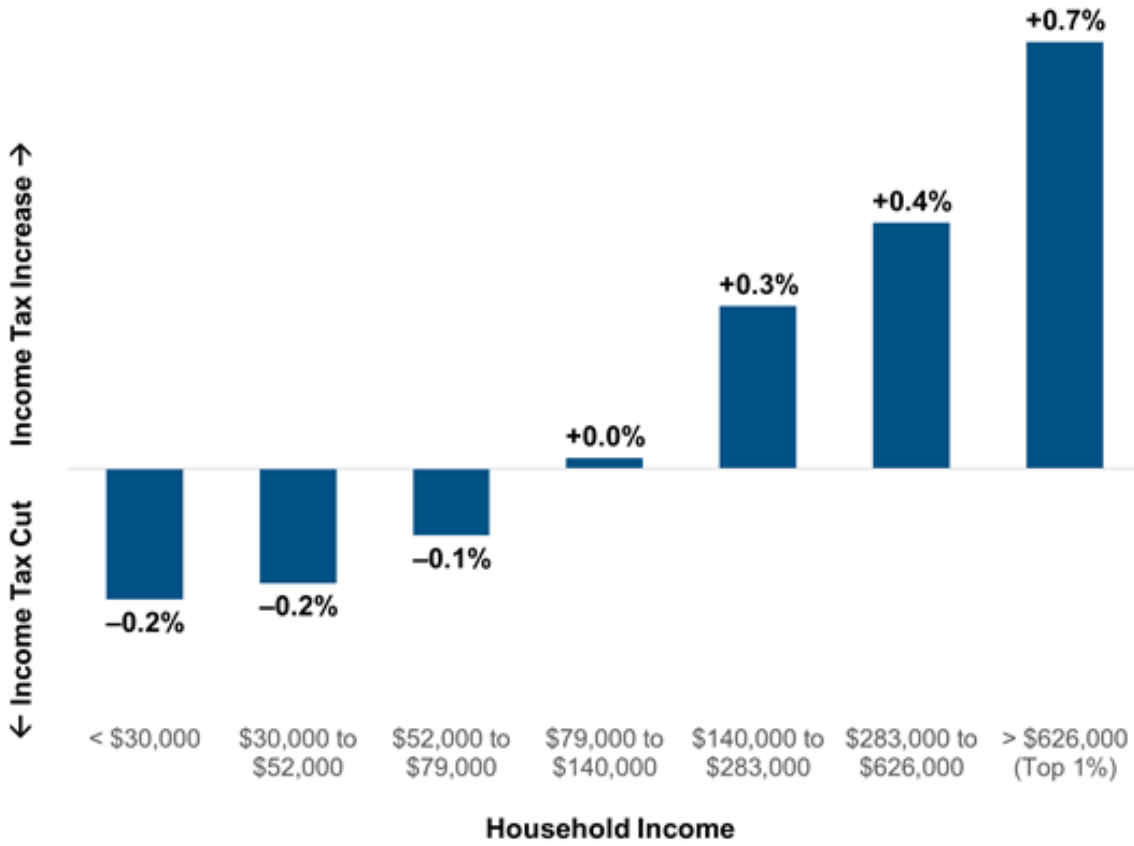


Impact of State Income Tax Reform

Average tax increase/decrease (% of household income)



Dear Honorable members of House Ways and Means Committee,

We are writing in favor of passing Maryland's House Bill (HB1190) to restructure personal income tax bracket and rates. Currently, Maryland's personal income tax rates benefit the wealthier in our state while both taxing and leaving behind the poorer. The small increase in income taxes is a less painful way to level the field and provide equity for all of our students.

This bill provides critical lifeblood for fully funding the Kirwan Recommendations (Blueprint for Maryland), a blueprint that will improve the education system of Maryland for ALL students. This small increase in income tax rates will yield over \$600,000,000 towards those efforts while reducing the tax burden for those at the lower end of the income scale. The rate of 0.03% means that someone making \$100,000 pays an extra \$300 over an entire year. A citizen making \$626,000 would be taxed on the higher end, 0.7%, but would still be taking home over \$621,000 of that total income. Giving up these amounts is less painful than continually underfunding our education system and living with those outcomes.

These funds will provide resources for our most-in-need students, most who happen to not live in areas with large tax bases. As teachers in the state of Maryland, specifically Baltimore City Public Schools, we feel this bill can pave the way to a brighter future for our whole state and fulfill the promise of an equal education to all students. We should provide ALL students in Maryland with the best education possible so that our state, as a whole, can thrive.

Please pass HB1190 to help fund Maryland's future.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nizamoff