



2221 Maryland,  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
240-338-2579  
[www.communitiesunite.org](http://www.communitiesunite.org)  
@marylandcu  
\_marylandcu

Testimony of Tia Downer, Communities United  
**In SUPPORT of HB 1190**

Respectfully submitted to the Ways & Means Committee  
of the Maryland House of Delegates  
March 5, 2020

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Kaiser and members of the Committee. I want to thank you for allowing me to be here this afternoon to speak in favor of HB 1190.

My name is Tia Dower. I am a parent of a 7th grader at Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy in Baltimore City. I am also a member of Communities United.

I support this bill because it will generate the revenue we need to fund our school as the Kirwan Commission has recommended. I feel that corporations and the wealthy paying their fair share is important. This bill will reform our tax system to tax wealth, in particular the wealthiest 1% of Marylanders (who currently pay the lowest tax rate).

This bill would also help my family and my community because there will be more money for different resources like recreation centers and other outlets to help youth and help families help their children be better people.

I believe that all Pre-K through 12 grade students all over Maryland deserve the same opportunities. For instance, if the Baltimore County schools have it, Baltimore City schools should have it too. But Baltimore is behind because communities like mine need the state to invest *much* more. This is why I am here today to urge you to pass HB1190.

I strongly feel that corporations and the wealthiest Marylanders should pay their fair share of taxes. I don't know if I'm poor, middle class or what class, but I know I pay taxes, though I often feel that I do not have enough money to live on, on a daily basis. I live from check to check so, if I have to pay a significant amount of my income in taxes, I think wealthy individuals should have to pay their fair share too!

For all these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1190.