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Testimony of Kuijuan Jackson, Communities United

In SUPPORT of HB1190

Respectively submitted to the Ways & Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegate, March 5, 2020

Chairwoman Kaiser and members of the Committee,

Greetings, My name is Kuijuan Jackson. I am a youth organizer with the Communities United. I am 21 years old and a resident of Baltimore City. I grew up in Baltimore city. It is my home so it breaks my heart when I find out that the City cares more about the police and greed than our school system.

I have been given the pleasure to go to not one but two schools in Baltimore City. But both schools were underfunded and both schools lacked the resources to teach kids about general life skills such as how to manage money, how to get a job and how to keep the job. The youth of Baltimore suffer more because we are forced to go to schools that lack a lot of resources, and we have to deal with teachers who are underpaid.

The Baltimore city school system suffers because big greedy corporations focus more on money than youth! I am tired of being overlooked. The system is corrupt and in order to fix it we must:

- Make sure our hard earned tax money goes to education
- Make sure greedy corporations pay their fair share of taxes
- Stop giving subsidies to corporations, even when they pay no taxes.
- Change our tax system so that the wealthiest 1% pay a higher tax rate than my dad and me.
- Raise teachers salaries.
- Create job and college readiness programs to prep our youth for the real world

I support HB1190 because it will require those who have the most to pay their fair share in taxes to raise the money our schools need! It will also give tax relief to low income families like mine. I urge this committee to pass HB1190!