



House Bill 1007: Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024

Testimony of Maryland Centers for Independent Living

SUPPORT

House Ways & Means Committee, February 22, 2024

The seven Centers for Independent Living (CIL) were established by federal law and work to ensure the civil rights and quality services of people with disabilities in Maryland. Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit disability resource and advocacy organizations located throughout Maryland operated by and for people with disabilities. CIL staff and Boards are at least 51% people with disabilities. We are part of a nationwide network which provides Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services.

The Independent Living Network submits this written testimony in strong **support** of HB 1007.

We believe our tax system should ask everyone to pay their fair share for the public services we all rely on, and we should remove policies that benefit powerful special interests at the expense of the rest of us, especially people with disabilities.

HB 1007 seeks to alter the state's tax system by closing corporate tax loopholes, addresses the estate tax on millionaires, addresses capital gains taxes, expands working family tax credits, and cracks down on tax fraud.

If enacted, HB 1007 would generate significant revenue for the state and this revenue could be provided for critical public services such as education and transportation systems. This additional revenue would benefit the low-income and marginalized communities that nonprofits serve.

If enacted, HB 1007 would reduce taxes on low-income Marylanders. People with disabilities are disproportionately represented in low-income Marylanders.

This much-needed legislation will create a fairer tax system, deliver tax cuts to help children in poverty and low-income Marylanders, and raise the revenue the state needs to build a Maryland that works for everyone, so that Maryland can continue to grow and thrive.

A fairer tax system promotes equity and social justice for all Maryland residents. Equity and social justice for people with disabilities is good for all Marylanders.

The Maryland Independent Network strongly **supports** HB 1007 and urges a **favorable** report.

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