

HB 1007_JoShifrin_FAV

Hearing Date: February 22, 2024

Jo Shifrin

Bethesda, MD 20817

TESTIMONY ON HB 1007 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024

TO: Chair Atterbeary,, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Jo Shifrin

My name is Jo Shifrin. I am a resident of 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1007, Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024.

I have lived in Bethesda for the past 10 years. My support for this legislation comes from my Jewish values: the infinite worth of every human life; equality; caring for the stranger; repairing the world; and so forth. On *Yom Kippur*, the holiest day of the Jewish year, we read from the prophet Isaiah which says God requires us “...to loosen all the bonds that bind men unfairly, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke, to share your bread with the hungry...” Jewish tradition teaches that in a just world, all people –regardless of race or income– would have *dei machsoro*, resources sufficient for their needs. But here in Maryland, giant corporations and the very wealthy have so much of the wealth that many Black and brown Marylanders can’t afford housing, food, or childcare.

Our state tax system is unfair. For decades, wealthy corporations have manipulated the rules to avoid paying taxes, putting an unjust burden on the poor, working class, and middle class Marylanders, as well as small businesses, to fund the things we care about: schools, health care, libraries, and public safety. In fact, one-third of the largest corporations pay ZERO income taxes in a typical year, and the wealthiest 1% of Marylanders pay a smaller share of their income in taxes than the rest of us.

We can create a fairer tax system, deliver tax cuts to help children who live in poverty, and raise the revenue that the state needs to meet anticipated short falls. The Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024 will raise \$1.6 Billion in revenue each year, cut taxes for more than 1 million Marylanders with family incomes below \$80,000/year, ensure the wealthiest 1% of households pay their fair share of taxes, support local, Maryland-based businesses, and advance economic and racial justice.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 1007.