



Hearing Testimony January 29, 2020

Senate Budget and Tax Committee

Senate Bill 2: Digital Advertising Gross Revenues – Taxation

IN FAVOR

Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CTW, CLC

Good Afternoon members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee. I am here today as a proud member and leader of SEIU Local 500. SEIU Local 500 represents over 20,000 working people in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia.

Our union is made up of support staff at the Montgomery County Public School system, Family Child Care Providers, Adjunct Faculty at several Maryland colleges and universities, staff at non-profits and many other working people across the region.

Thousands of our members and I work or have worked as educators. Collectively, we have spent years teaching and caring for the future generations of our state.

It's the reason I'm here today to support Senate Bill 2, which would raise revenues from digital advertising in the state to help fund our schools. It's a measure that isn't just the right thing to do - it makes sense.

Small businesses all across our state contribute to our children's future by helping to fund our public schools. The questions remains though, what about the online transactions that happen every day? Is it fair that we ask brick and mortar Maryland businesses to pay their share without asking online advertisers to do the same?

Last session, the General Assembly succeeded in righting part of this wrong by making sure online retailers could no longer avoid paying sales tax. Now, it's time to complete this process by making sure another class of online businesses, advertisers, also pay their fair share.

As we undertake the most comprehensive transformation of our education system in a generation, Maryland will need to find new and innovative ways to gather the revenues necessary to give our children the education they deserve.

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Pia Morrison, President



That's exactly what SB 2 offers: a way to raise revenues for our children that keeps up with the changes in our technology, our economy and the digital marketplace. It's time for our tax code to start catching up with the new economy - and what better motivation than caring for our children?

Today, we're asking the members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to consider the benefits that SB 2 will offer for children in public schools across Maryland and to support this innovative piece of legislation. Thank you.

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