

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
CARRIED INTEREST LOOPHOLE - SB 216**

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

TO: Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Sara Nathan, sonathan06@yahoo.com, 807 Fairland Rd Silver Spring MD 20904

My name is Sara Nathan. I live in Silver Spring in District 14. This testimony is in support of SB216 on behalf of Jews United for Justice. Rabbi Hillel teaches us that we can't separate ourselves from our community; we all have a responsibility for each other's wellbeing and care, including wealthy fund managers.

Brandon learned the number 9! That's a huge accomplishment. He counted eight little plastic bears and then he correctly said "nine" when his teacher added one more. His teacher wrote the number 9 and Brandon said, "nine." We cheered. But Brandon is already 5 years old. It was the 79th day of kindergarten. His peers were learning the numbers 16-20. Some were identifying numbers that are greater or less. Students in a more affluent school might be counting to 100. Brandon is already behind and perpetually trying to catch up.

That's why Governor Hogan and the General Assembly need to fully implement the recommendations from the Kirwan Commission to provide full-day, quality pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds with highly-trained, well-paid teachers. We need to provide more resources for high-poverty schools – health care, counseling, and social workers to support families. **Passing SB216 is an important part of generating the revenue necessary to fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.**

When a student starts out behind, there is a greater risk that he will continue to lag and not meet the basic requirements for a high school diploma. If our school system only prepares Brandon and his peers to be store cashiers or fast food workers, they will quickly be replaced by self-checkout machines, touch screen ordering, and credit card chip readers. They have a right to a decent education and this funding is central to providing that. It is not enough for Hogan to piece-meal cobble together a lesser version of the recommendations.

Over half of MCPS students are African American or Latinx, a third qualify for free or reduced-price meals and roughly a fifth are learning English as a second language. Those students should not face further barriers to their thriving caused by inadequate education funding. The students in the graduating class of 2032, our current kindergarteners, deserve equal opportunity.

Passing SB 216, asking wealthy fund managers to pair their fair share of taxes, would generate nearly \$80 million per year, according to a 2017 fiscal note. We must create a more equitable tax system to raise the funds necessary to provide a great education to all Maryland students. Passing SB216 and closing loopholes that allow the wealthy to abdicate their responsibility to Maryland's next generation is an important step in bringing that vision to life. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB216.