



Testimony in Support of House Bill 172 - Combined Reporting Ways and Means Committee

Baltimore's premiere organizing and advocacy non-profit of low to moderate-income persons most impacted by systems of injustice proudly submits this written testimony of our support in the State of Maryland.

Since 2010, all we have been doing is organizing community members in communities and neighborhoods that are underfunded, over-policed, under-educated and under resources. Most of our members and their families live in food deserts, in poorly maintained housing, including public housing, sending their children to schools that lack proper basic modern updates: heating, cooling, well-maintained bathrooms and school supplies. Everything about their lives reminds them that the state and city do not value their lives. Even so, they have fought beside one another with us for community schools, safe housing, fair wages and accessible healthcare. We stand together demanding shifts in Maryland's tax law to put the burden on those able to pay.

All Marylanders deserve and need a world-class education system. We must not continue to prioritize tax breaks that benefit powerful special interests but do nothing to help our economy. We urge our legislators to commit to our families, communities and students as well as the future of our economy. Our students cannot wait.

We humbly, yet stridently ask that this committee takes a stand for those who need it most. We have a solution, and that is revisions to make our tax code fair.

Communities United urges a favorable report on House Bill 172.