

MARYLAND FAIR FUNDING COALITION

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TESTIMONY ON SB 660 The Supporting All Taxpayers Act of 2023

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
March 9, 2023

SUPPORT

The Maryland Fair Funding Coalition is a group of more than a dozen organizations across the state that have come together to ensure that the state has the resources it needs to make significant new investments in education funding. Great public schools are part of the foundation of a thriving community. They reflect our understanding that every child has something to contribute and embody our commitment to providing the support children need to learn and thrive. Strong schools build the groundwork for our future prosperity by creating tomorrow's skilled workforce and making Maryland an attractive place for families and businesses.

The Fair Funding Coalition supports proposals focused on improving Maryland's tax code, and making it easy for taxpayers to file their taxes. Right now, many neighboring states and the District of Columbia have offices within their Comptroller office which function to assist taxpayers, ensuring that those without the resources to hire out their taxes do so correctly. HB 660 would create this in Maryland, taking the burden of compliance off taxpayers, mitigating future problems, and issuing annual reports to identify what was done to improve services.

HB660 will do this by creating an Office of the Taxpayer Advocate within the Comptroller's office, staffed by at least six individuals tasked with providing customer service to taxpayers. They would ensure equitable and easy tax administration, and a place to go for people who feel stuck when trying to pay their taxes. This will align with the best practices of the Federal government, as well as neighboring states, and will be a strong step toward the modernization of Maryland's tax infrastructure.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 660