



**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 142
Chairman Atterbeary
House Ways & Means Committee**

Maryland Rise is a non-partisan not-for-profit organization working to promote economic opportunity for all Marylanders, not just the wealthy and well-connected. We are testifying today in support of HB 142 to expand the range of options available to local policymakers to raise to maintain effective and equitable revenue systems.

Right now local governments in Maryland are extremely limited in their ability to tax. This only exacerbates inequality, and contributes to the basic unfairness of the wealthiest 1 percent of Marylanders paying a smaller share of their income than those earning less. HB 142 HB 142 allows local governments to slightly increase their top income tax rate for those who are most able to pay while lowering taxes for lower-income households. This additional flexibility will give local governments more options for funding essential local services in the most equitable way possible.

For these reasons, Maryland Rise urges a favorable report on HB 142.