



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

WILL JAWANDO  
COUNCILMEMBER  
AT-LARGE  
CHAIR, EDUCATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE  
PLANNING, HOUSING, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

January 31, 2023

Montgomery County Councilmember Will Jawando  
Testimony for More Local Tax Relief for Working Families Act of 2023  
HB0142 and SB0270  
February 2, 2023

Chair Atterbeary and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Providing tax equity and tax relief for our working and low-income families is critical to creating a just and thriving economy. The More Local Tax Relief for Working Families Act of 2023 (HB0142) is an important tool for local jurisdictions to provide relief that fits their community needs. I have worked closely with Delegate Palakovich Carr on this issue, and I am grateful for the opportunity to express my support for this bill before this committee.

As an At-Large County Councilmember in Montgomery County, Maryland, I would welcome the flexibility this bill would provide to counties to establish income tax rates to meet the needs of our county. Through this legislation, we would have the opportunity at the county level to provide relief to working families, our aging neighbors, and others who struggle to afford to live and work in our state.

This bill could not be more timely. As our counties, state, and country continue to recover from the pandemic, and as many people continue to reel from inflation, we need to find ways to put more money back into people's pockets, to increase the spending power and economic opportunities for individuals and our community. Indeed, while many working people lost their jobs and livelihoods during the pandemic, the wealthy grew wealthier.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, while lives and livelihoods were lost and everyone's

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Pandemic\\_Profits\\_report.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Pandemic_Profits_report.pdf).

life changed in some way by the pandemic, the economic story related to the pandemic is an acceleration of inequality. We cannot let that be the end of the story.

The state and our counties should make efforts to ensure that low-income people are not left behind in the wake of this increased inequality. By modestly increasing the tax rate of our most affluent earners, we could lower taxes for our most economically vulnerable residents and prioritize critical investments in our schools, our transportation infrastructure, and other vital services. Such a change would be a small step that could help many people.

I am grateful for Delegate Palakovich Carr's efforts in this regard, and am grateful for the committee's thoughtful consideration of this important opportunity to provide relief to the people who most need it in Maryland.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Jawando", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Will Jawando