

Testimony in Support of SB 766 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024

Terry Cavanagh on behalf of SEIU Local 500
Presented to the Senate Budget & Tax Committee

Favorable

February 21, 2024

SEIU Local 500 strongly supports the Fair Share for Maryland Act (SB 766) because it will provide resources that Maryland communities need while also ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals are contributing their fair share to the public services we all benefit from.

As a union of over 20,000 workers who serve Marylanders from cradle to career, we not only understand the struggles of working families, we are working families. The Fair Share for Maryland Act's expansion of tax credits for working families will work towards ensuring so many families are not on the cusp of poverty while living paycheck to paycheck. Too many of our families cannot afford an emergency expense of \$500. With child tax credits putting more money back into the pockets of working families, we can bring some economic relief to those who need it most.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act will:

- Raise an estimated \$1.6 billion per year in new revenue when fully phased in
- Lower taxes for more than 1.3 million Marylanders by expanding the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit
- Close corporate tax loopholes to ensure wealthy multinational corporations can't avoid paying state taxes.
- Balance our upside-down tax system and ensure millionaires pay their fair share by adding upper income tax brackets and adding a surtax on capital gains income.

We can't grow our economy if we are cutting back on things like child care, community colleges, and transit service. Businesses – and the Maryland workers they employ – value these services and it is only fair that the largest corporations pay their share, just like our Maryland small businesses already do.

And, it's wrong that the wealthiest 1% of Marylanders, those earning more than \$700,000 per year, pay a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than those in any other income group. The Fair Share for Maryland Act will help address this.

We ask the committee to make a favorable report on SB 766.

