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Patrick Moran – President

SB 766 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024

Budget and Taxation Committee February 21, 2024

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports SB 766. This legislation raises \$1.6 billion in revenue each year to support good schools and colleges, health care, transportation, and the state workforce to deliver high-quality services. AFSCME represents nearly 45,000 state, county, and municipal employees across who dedicate their careers to serving Marylanders, and often in their most vulnerable times. Unfortunately, the Moore administration inherited record-high staffing shortages, soaring caseloads, and extremely high overtime costs due to years of neglect under the Hogan Administration and budget cuts during the Great Recession. A study commissioned by the Department of Budget and Management also recently found that the Standard and Correctional Pay Scales were significantly below the wages in neighboring jurisdictions for comparable jobs. To recover, modernize, and rebuild our state government and provide the high-quality services Marylanders rely on and expect, a major investment is needed.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024 increases revenue in a fair and equitable way by increasing taxes on the wealthiest households in the state while cutting taxes for more than 1 million Marylanders with incomes under \$80,000 for the household. With starting salaries of around \$35,000 in state government, many of our members will qualify for this. This legislation closes loopholes that allows wealthy multinational corporations to avoid paying hundreds of millions annually in taxes to Maryland where they do business and make a lot of income.

We cannot grow our economy if we cut from our seniors, or our community colleges, or transit services. It's wrong to pursue cuts, when 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 urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 766.

