



Testimony for SB 766  
**Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024**  
*Presented to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee*  
February 21, 2024  
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the political director of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We represent over 10,000 healthcare workers in Maryland and DC within hospitals, long term care facilities, and clinics. 1199SEIU strongly support 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.

The pandemic demonstrated the deep wealth disparities in our state. Our members were working overtime caring for those who were sick, exposing themselves to COVID-19, and still struggling to make ends meet for their families when they went home. The average annual salary for certified nurse assistant is about \$35,070 in Maryland. 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 of 2024 will help address this.

With this bill, the Maryland legislature can close corporate tax loopholes to ensure wealthy multinational corporations can't avoid paying state taxes. It's time that we 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. When fully phased in, it would raise an estimated \$1.6 billion per year in new revenue that could transform the state's ability to provide needed services for the public. This legislation expands the social safety net for children and working families by lowering taxes for more than 1.3 million Marylanders.

**For those reasons and more, 1199SEIU asks the committee to make a favorable report on SB 766.**

Sincerely,

Ricarra Jones  
Political Director of 1199SEIU

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