
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 766
Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024
Budget and Taxation
February 21, 2024

Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports the Fair Share for Maryland Act (SB 766), which will generate \$1.6 billion annually for the state. As social workers, we believe that taxes are contributions to society. SB 766 would establish a just tax system where the wealthiest corporations and individuals pay their fair share to fund critical resources for Maryland communities.

SB 766 would address inequity by balancing our upside-down tax system and ensuring millionaires pay their fair share by adding upper income tax brackets and adding a surtax on capital gains income. According to the Chamber of Commerce, Maryland is the 7th wealthiest state in the United States with more millionaire households than any other state.¹ It is wrong that our top 1%, 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.

SB 766 will ensure that the Maryland economy is set up for success. 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. It is only fair that the largest corporations pay their share, just like our Maryland small businesses already do.

SB 766 will lower taxes for more than 1.3 million Marylanders by expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), both of which have been proven to reduce poverty, especially child poverty. Research shows that the income from these credits leads to improved school performance and increased work effort in adulthood, benefiting individuals, families, and the state as a whole.² **95% of Marylanders will not incur tax increases**, and the bottom 60% making \$106,000 or less will receive tax cuts and benefits from the EITC and CTC.

As future social workers, we are guided by a code of ethics in which the primary mission is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges a favorable report on SB 766.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.

¹ Chamber of Commerce. How rich is each US State? <https://www.chamberofcommerce.org/how-rich-is-each-us-state/>

² Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (May 2016). Chart Book: The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/chart-book-the-earned-income-tax-credit-and-child-tax-credit>