



SB 766 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024
Budget and Taxation Committee
February 21, 2024
SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 766. This bill 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 CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

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

SB 766 will help to create stronger households in Maryland by expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The CTC and EITC are used to mitigate costly expenses that negatively impact households' overall well-being. Maryland households have expenses such as childcare, transportation, healthcare, and school materials. SB 766 will help to establish a stronger Maryland CTC and EITC so that more households will receive money that can be directly used to manage some of these daily costs. This will increase households' financial stability and will give more opportunities for them to thrive. Households experiencing poverty suffer from limited access to food, unemployment, unstable housing, inadequate medical care, and utility shutoffs. SB 766 is a crucial step forward in combating poverty and fostering secure Marylanders for future generations.

We need to invest in services like childcare, community colleges, and transportation in order to grow our economy. 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. SB 766 addresses the inequity in our tax system and the funding needed to cover the tax credits and services that Marylanders need to thrive.

Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for SB 766.