

SB0859\_LindaBergofsky\_FAV

Date of Hearing: March 5, 2025, 1:00 PM

Linda Rae Bergofsky

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**TESTIMONY ON SB 0859 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025**

**TO:** Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Linda Bergofsky

**I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0859, Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025**

By way of background, I am a member of Oseh Shalom synagogue in Laurel, MD and serve as the chair of its Social Justice committee. I am also an advocate for fair and equitable opportunities for all Marylanders. But right now, Maryland's tax code is full of loopholes, created by special interests, that allow the wealthy and powerful few to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. As a result, tax responsibilities are upside-down—allowing the wealthiest to avoid making the same contributions as the rest of us. When the Governor talks about the profound deficit the state is facing and the uncertainty of an out of control Federal government, we are called to put an emphasis on rationality and fairness.

My faith tradition teaches that in a just world, all people — regardless of race, income, or zip code — would have what the Torah calls *dei machsoro*, resources sufficient for their needs. But here in Maryland, giant corporations and the very rich are hoarding so much wealth that many Marylanders can't afford housing, food, or childcare. This disconnect between the haves and have nots is particularly acute in Montgomery County, but it is evident all across the state.

Every one of the seven elements of the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 is critical to re-balancing our inequitable system; it is estimated this one bill would raise \$1.6 billion in revenue each year at the same time it cuts taxes for 1 million working Marylanders making less than \$80,000 per year.

Smart reforms of Maryland's tax system such as those in the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 can close loopholes that exacerbate inequities, adequately fund our public services, help our state thrive and be competitive, and advance racial and economic justice. For these reasons, **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0859.**