

March 5, 2025
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TESTIMONY ON SB#859 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

TO: Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins, and members of the Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Abby Rammelkamp

My name is Abby Rammelkamp. I am a resident of District 14. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB859, Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.

I am a retired civil servant who worked for 33 years at the Department of Defense. It was a meaningful career in which I helped to provide administrations from Reagan to Obama with accurate information that enabled them to formulate foreign policy and tactical actions based on facts. It left me with an appreciation for the role that the government can play to improve Americans' lives. I also know that my career of service was based on tax-funded education, and my comfortable and stable life is thanks to facilities provided by federal, state, and city government— which my federal service and taxed income helped pay for.

Not that paying taxes is fun, but it is the basis for the institutions that educate us and keep us safe and healthy. I don't mind paying my share, but our current tax system favors people who have much more money than I have, and people at my income level are subsidizing the wealthy. This is unfair. It is also unfair to the state of Maryland, which is facing a serious budget shortfall, and it is unfair to the people of Maryland, who need the services that will be cut in order to allow rich people to hoard wealth at the expense of everyone else.

Forty-five years ago, this kind of tax policy was marketed on the bogus justification that preferences for the wealthy would "trickle down" to benefit everyone else. Now that we have seen that there are no trickle-down benefits to enriching the wealthy and robbing everyone else, we can stop pretending that allowing Amazon to pay no taxes at all is anything other than corporate welfare. The Fair Share for Maryland Plan is a very modest tax increase for people with income above \$775,000 per year, inherited wealth, and earnings from capital gains, and will get a little closer to a progressive tax structure that stops disproportionately placing the burden on people who have less. When we have a just tax structure that makes it easier for people to care for their children and keep them healthy, we all benefit, including the wealthy, because we pay less for prisons and we develop the economy-boosting talents of previously neglected children and their stressed parents. A decent life is not a luxury that only the wealthy deserve; everybody deserves it, and Marylanders have the resources to provide it, if everyone pays their fair share.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB859.