

Date of Hearing 3/5/2025

Michelle Markey  
Baltimore, MD 21211

**TESTIMONY ON SB859 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Fair Share for Maryland Plan**

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

**FROM:** Michelle Markey

**OPENING: My name is Michelle Markey. I am a resident of District 40. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB859, Fair Share for Maryland Plan.**

I have been a resident of Maryland for the past 12 years, and I am also a social worker in a health care setting that provides care to medically underserved populations. I care about the Fair Share Act because I think it would be a positive step towards reducing the tremendous income inequality gap in our state.

Given that our state is facing a budget shortfall and deficit—not to mention the likelihood that this will worsen under the Trump administration—we must take steps toward reforming our tax system in ways that generate more revenue, fix loopholes that favor the wealthiest 1% and large corporations, and support Marylanders who are struggling economically. As a social worker, I work with this latter group. I see many young people who are working hard to obtain economic independence while faced with steep costs of living in Maryland, and who could benefit from the expanded EITC proposed under this bill. The more than \$16 billion raised by this Plan would support things like health care, good schools, transportation, and state workforce to deliver high quality services that we could all benefit from.

In a situation where spending cuts and increased revenue are needed, reforming our upside-down tax system that allows the wealthiest to avoid and/or underreport their income (which, as we know, is often from wealth rather than work) seems like a no-brainer, not to mention a step towards a more just taxation system. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB859.**