

**DEBBIE MICHAELS
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Written Testimony

SB 859

Fair Share for
Maryland Act of 2025

I have lived in Maryland all of my life. I love living here and plan to retire here. I have worked in many industries from restaurants, to franchise headquarters, medical office support in the Jessup prisons, and data processing in a direct mail shop. For the last seventeen years I have worked at UMBC as administrative support in various departments. I am also the president of the local union and a member of a mutual aid organization in Westminster, Maryland.

My income is strictly by way of my job. I have never been in the financial position to purchase my own home and have lived in various rentals in Baltimore and Carroll counties my entire adult life. I have always struggled making ends meet but I get by. I don't mind paying taxes understanding that they contribute to the common good.

What is frustrating to me is knowing that hugely profitable multistate and multinational businesses in Maryland are able to avoid paying taxes due to corporate loopholes in our tax code. Not only do these businesses crush the competition of small and family owned businesses, the residents of Maryland bear the tax burden that these corporations exploit. Our tax dollars build the infrastructure, support the maintenance of the roads and bridges, fund community services and educate the workforce that they rely on every day while raking in mindboggling revenue.

I am thrilled to see so many representatives in Annapolis have signed on to this legislation. We need to stop expecting trickle-down economics from the 1980's to open the floodgates of revenue from the top when they slashed the tax rates for the rich. It's been a failure. Corporate profits have skyrocketed. Income inequality shows that the rich are hoarding the wealth by investing in their financial portfolios, and keeping it in the family through inheritance tax laws.

Again, I don't mind paying taxes to contribute to the common good. But we need a tax system that is fair and closes the loopholes the wealthy and powerful have exploited to game the system.

Thank you for your consideration to support SB 859.

Sincerely,

Debbie Michaels
President, AFSCME Local 1459
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)