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Senate Bill 859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025
Budget and Taxation Committee
March 5, 2025
FAVORABLE

The Baltimore Teachers Union represents over 9,000 employees of Baltimore City Public Schools, including teachers, paraprofessionals, school secretaries, counselors, librarians, clinicians, transportation aides, and school support staff. Our members are on the frontlines of public education everyday, and strive to educate, support and develop Baltimore City's young people. Baltimore's educators encounter some of the most challenging work environments in the state, and we see the impact of Baltimore's social and economic challenges every day. Our educators work tirelessly to break cycles of poverty, and we need more resources and a strong network of public services to help our students and their families thrive. The Baltimore Teachers Union is writing in strong support of SB 859 and we request that the committee issue a favorable report.

As educators, we see every day what chronic underfunding means for our schools and students. Too many Baltimore classrooms lack essential resources, educators struggle with low pay and overwhelming workloads, and students are forced to learn in dilapidated buildings with outdated materials. The revenue generated from closing corporate tax loopholes can provide much-needed funding for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, ensuring that every student—regardless of ZIP code—has access to a high-quality education.

Beyond education, this bill also strengthens our city and state by directing funds to public transit and critical services that working families depend on. Reliable public transportation is essential for our students, educators, and school staff who commute daily, and yet Baltimore's transit system remains underfunded and inefficient. Likewise, public services such as healthcare, housing assistance, and community safety initiatives all require sustained investment—funding that corporations should be paying into, just as everyday Marylanders do.

To put it plainly, this bill is about fairness. Large corporations benefit from Maryland's infrastructure, workforce, and public services, yet some continue to exploit tax loopholes while our communities bear the financial burden. Closing these loopholes is not an extreme or radical proposal—it is a commonsense step toward tax fairness and economic justice.

We urge the committee to stand with students, educators, and working families by voting YES on the Fair Share Act. Our schools, our transit systems, and our communities deserve the resources needed to thrive, and this legislation is a critical step toward making that a reality.

The Baltimore Teachers Union urges the committee to issue a favorable report of Senate Bill 859.