

Date of Hearing 3/5/2025

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

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

**FROM:** Thomas Kennedy

**OPENING: My name is Thomas Kennedy. I am a resident in District 18. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#859, Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025**

I am a member of the Policy Work Group of the Maryland Poor People's Campaign as well as being a member of the Coordinating Committee for the state. I am also a parishioner at St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church, in Bethesda/Chevy Chase where I also am a volunteer on the church's Racial Justice and Equity Committee. Participating in these ways, I continue to work on encouraging Maryland legislators to draft and implement laws that will strengthen our social safety net and lift up those who have the least in our state.

Overall, this bill will increase funding for essential services that Marylanders desperately need—especially families with children, working adults, older citizens, and people with disabilities. As a member of Maryland Poor People's Campaign that bases its actions on poverty data, I know that the income and wealth distribution has become much more unequal in the last 30-40 years—impacting 36.1% of Marylanders between 2018-2020. One of the many reasons that rich people stay rich is their ability to pay a relatively small proportion of their income in taxes (often legally). This bill increases the number of tax brackets and therefore makes income taxes more progressive. Also, as a Marylander, I know that our state has serious budget shortfalls through 2030 that will require cutting of vital services in our state. The Fair Share Plan is projected to increase tax revenue by \$1.6 billion per year, which could only help relieve this shortfall.

My moral tradition emphasizes the importance of paying taxes in order to support the common good. Finally, from my experience standing beside low-wealth and working Maryland residents, people of every race and ethnicity use government services, BUT people with disabilities, poor, and low- and moderate-income people (of every race and ethnicity) need them more.

To sum up, I support the Fair Share for Maryland Plan, not only because it will fairly tax corporations (who now pay less than their fair share), but because it could bring needed revenue to the state of Maryland to support the basic human rights and needs of all Marylanders.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#859**

Sincerely,

Thomas Kennedy