



SB859: Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
March 5, 2025
Position: Support

The Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (MDAC) strongly supports SB859, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025, because it will provide resources that Maryland communities need, while ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals are contributing their fair share to the public services we all benefit from. MDAC is a coalition of the five Down syndrome organizations in Maryland as well as individuals with Down syndrome and their family members who have come together to advocate for improved quality of life for all individuals with Down syndrome throughout the state of Maryland.

MDAC is deeply concerned about the FY26 budget proposal's extreme disinvestment from public education and from the critical services and supports needed by individuals with developmental disabilities to live full lives of dignity in the community. In order to create communities across Maryland that reflect our shared values—in community living, equitable educational opportunities, employment first, access to health care, transportation, and participation in civic life—we need to build a tax system that is based on fundamental fairness. Marylanders need the \$1.6 billion per year in new revenue that the Fair Share Plan would generate, lowering taxes for more than a million lower-income Marylanders while closing corporate tax loopholes and asking our wealthiest citizens to invest in the present and future of our state.

Fully funding our schools, supporting individuals with developmental disabilities through home- and community-based services, and ensuring access to child care are essential if we hope to grow our economy. Without additional revenue to support these fundamental obligations of the state, families will bear the brunt of fueling corporate growth at their expense. That is not a recipe for a strong economy, with parents unable to work, children unable to reach their potential, and people with disabilities unable to contribute to the life of their communities. The alternative—everyone paying their fair share—creates a firm foundation on which to innovate, collaborate, and grow, leaving no one behind.

For these reasons, MDAC strongly supports the Fair Share Plan and asks the committee to make a favorable report on SB859.

Respectfully submitted,

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