



Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.

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SB 859 Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

I am Celia Serkin, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc. (MC Federation of Families), a family peer-run organization serving diverse families in Montgomery County who have children, youth, and/or young adults with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring challenges. MC Federation of Families has been providing family peer support services to families in Montgomery County who have children, youth, and/or young adults with these challenges for almost 20 years. Our Family Peer Specialists are parents who have raised or are currently raising children with these challenges. I am a Montgomery County resident and reside in District 39. I have two children, now adults, who have struggled since childhood with mental health challenges. My son has debilitating depression. My daughter has co-occurring challenges.

MC Federation of Families strongly supports the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 (SB 859) because it will provide resources that Maryland communities need while also ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals are contributing their fair share to the public services we all benefit from.

Many families are still experiencing financial and food insecurities. They continue to suffer due to inflation and the increase in interest rates being used to control it. Our parents are raising children, youth, and/or young adults with behavioral health challenges, and they need robust services and resources.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act will:

- Raise at least \$1.6 billion per year in new revenue when fully phased in
- Lower taxes for more than 1.3 million Marylanders by expanding the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit
- Close corporate tax loopholes to ensure wealthy multinational corporations can't avoid paying state taxes
- Balance our upside-down tax system and ensure millionaires pay their fair share by adding upper income tax brackets and adding a surtax on investment income

We can't grow our economy if we are cutting back on things like public schools, child care, and transit service. Businesses – and the Maryland workers they employ – value these services and it is only fair that the largest corporations pay their share, just like our Maryland small businesses already do.

It's wrong that the wealthiest Marylanders, those earning more than \$700,000 per year, pay a lower tax rate than those in any other income group. The Fair Share for Maryland Act will help address this.

MC Federation of Families asks the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to make a favorable report on SB 859.