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Testimony in Support of SB 859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

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I strongly support the Fair Share for Maryland Act (SB 859) because it will provide the resources Maryland families and communities need to thrive.

I am a retiree who dotes on my grandchildren and believes that every child across Maryland deserves the best start in life. Unfortunately, potential tax cuts threaten the gains Maryland schools are making under the Blueprint. I am especially concerned about the effect of education cuts on my granddaughter Izzy, who is a freshman at Catonsville High School. Izzy has high aspirations for college and beyond and works hard to meet academic challenges.

What will the next three years of high school be like for her and her fellow students if school districts lose substantial amounts of funding? Will they have to lower their aspirations?

I pay my Maryland taxes every year without complaint because I want to contribute to education, social services, caring for the environment, and the other important work the state accomplishes each year. That's why I believe it's time to pass the Fair Share for Maryland Act so every family and every corporation contributes to keeping our state a great place to live, raise a family, and work.

And, 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.

I ask the committee to make a favorable report on SB 859.