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Patrick Moran – President

SB 859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Budget and Taxation Committee March 5, 2025

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 represents 50,000 state, county, and municipal employees who are committed to serving Marylanders, often in their most challenging and vulnerable moments. We strongly support SB 859, a crucial piece of legislation that generates over \$1.6 billion annually in revenue to fund essential services such as public education, healthcare, transportation, and the state workforce. Unfortunately, our public servants are experiencing severe challenges, including record-high staffing shortages, overwhelming caseloads, and skyrocketing overtime costs—issues exacerbated by years of divestment under the Hogan administration and deep budget cuts during the Great Recession. A study by the Department of Budget and Management revealed that Maryland's Standard and Correctional Pay Scales are significantly lower than those in neighboring jurisdictions for comparable positions. Actions at the federal level also threaten the delivery of high-quality services that Marylanders depend on and deserve.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 increases revenue in a fair and equitable way by increasing taxes on the wealthiest households in the state while cutting taxes for more than 1.3 million Marylanders. This legislation also closes loopholes that allows wealthy multinational corporations to avoid paying hundreds of millions annually in taxes to Maryland where they do business and make a lot of income.

We cannot grow our economy if we cut from the vital public services Marylanders rely on daily. It's wrong to pursue cuts, when the wealthiest 1% of Marylanders, those earning more than \$700,000 per year, pay a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than those in any other income group. The Fair Share for Maryland Act will help address this.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 859.