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TESTIMONY ON SB859 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Fair Share for Maryland Plan

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

FROM: Mara Greengrass

My name is Mara Greengrass. I'm a resident of District 18 and a member of Congregation Beth El in Bethesda and I'm submitting this testimony in support of SB859, the Fair Share for Maryland Plan.

My Jewish values call me to favor fairness in all things, including in taxation. The well-known Hebrew word tzedakah is often translated as "charity", but it's truly a combination of justice, charity, wisdom, and righteousness. All of those come together in the Fair Share Act, which would ensure that the wealthiest and most powerful among us help the poor and marginalized people of Maryland.

I'm a mom with a child still in a public school and I'm concerned that the ambitious Blueprint for Maryland's Future won't work without sufficient funding. The Fair Share plan will justly close corporate tax loopholes and raise money so that all kids, including mine, receive the world-class education they are entitled to.

HB1014 would very slightly increase taxes on the top 1%, while giving a tax break to more than 1 million Marylanders, which would be a quick boost to our economy. Money given to those in need is spent here immediately, while money given to the wealthy is hoarded or spent elsewhere. This plan would also wisely help local businesses over large corporate competitors.

Why is income derived from wealth taxed at a lower rate than income derived from the hard work of Marylanders? This Act would righteously offset the lopsided treatment of income by the federal government, adding a 1% surtax on capital gains.

In these times of great need *and* budget shortfall, I hope we can all feel the spirit of tzedakah. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB859.**