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SB 859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025
Hearing before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, March 5, 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Public Justice Center (PJC) strongly supports the Fair Share for Maryland Act (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.

PJC is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. The PJC provides advice and representation to low-income clients, advocates before legislatures and government agencies, and collaborates with community and advocacy organizations; we actively incorporate anti-racism and racial equity goals into our advocacy work.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act is desperately needed because the State is already failing to meet its obligations from FY 25 to those families most readily left behind because of a revenue shortfall. For example, the General Assembly prioritized a \$10 million investment in eviction prevention funds in FY 25, but has only proposed allocating \$5 million for FY 26. We applaud the State's \$5 million proposed FY 26 investment in the Eviction Prevention Funds in Community Schools program enacted in 2024 (HB 428/SB 370). However, failing to renew the additional \$5 million in less restricted eviction prevention funds should not be an option. Renters United Maryland and the Maryland Eviction Prevention Funds Alliance has urged the General Assembly to restore the proposed 50% cut to eviction prevention funds in the FY 26 budget, and restore \$10 million in total funding. Based on a recent [study by Stout Risius & Ross, by investing \\$10 million in FY 26, Maryland can stop the evictions of 3,747 families at the highest risk of homelessness.](#)

Had the Fair Share for Maryland Act been previously passed, Maryland would be much more likely to continue its financial support for eviction prevention funds. 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.

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.

Public Justice Center **urges a favorable report on SB 859.**