



Testimony Favorable SB0859
Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Budget and Taxation
March 5, 2025

MAREE is in support of **SB0859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act 2025**. The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE), a coalition of education advocacy, civil rights, and community-based organizations committed to eliminating racial disparities in Maryland’s education system. It is time for Maryland’s public education system to center and serve the needs of Black and Brown students. We are holding leaders accountable for delivery a public education system that is joyful, healthy, equitable, engaging, culturally affirming, and free from policies and practices rooted in systemic and structural racism. By investing in Black and Brown students’ education and success, we create a stronger future for all of Maryland.

MAREE is in favor of SB0859 because it will provide revenue that Maryland communities need while ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals contribute their fair share to the public services, we all benefit from.

Maryland is facing a staggering budget shortfall, with a deficit of \$2.7 billion expected by the 2026 fiscal year, which is expected to worsen significantly under the incoming Trump administration and thanks to a tax system that is upside-down and unfair. For decades, wealthy corporations have manipulated the rules to avoid paying taxes, placing too much responsibility for funding things we care about – our schools, health care, transportation, child care, social services and public safety – on working families and our small businesses. We can create a fairer tax system, deliver tax cuts to help children in poverty, raise the revenue the state needs to build a Maryland that works for everyone.

- The Blueprint is a major commitment by the Maryland General Assembly and governor to building a world-class education system. Failing to ensure full funding of the Blueprint will make it impossible to achieve the Blueprint’s full vision and hurt our young people’s chances to succeed.
- A fully funded Blueprint will enhance efforts to prepare all students to engage with 21st century college, career, and apprenticeship opportunities in high school, which will strengthen the state’s workforce and bolster a shared, prosperous economy.
- Additional state funding is needed to provide new resources to schools serving high-poverty communities and equitably distribute the resources and services children need to thrive. Salary increases will help recruit and retain well-trained, racially diverse teachers, expand access to high-



quality pre-K instruction and improve services for children with special needs, English language learners and more.

MAREE respectfully asks the committee to vote favorably for SB0859 Fair Share for Maryland Act 2025.

peace and truth,
sharlimar douglass
Lead Advocate & Strategist
The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE)