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Testimony in Support of SB 859 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025  
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My name is Charlotte Vengrin. I am a resident of District 18. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 859, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.

I have been incredibly proud to call Maryland my home for the last fifteen years. There are many things that make our state a special place to live, and among them are the high-quality public services that the state of Maryland provides to its residents. I graduated from a public high school in Maryland where I received an education that has thoroughly prepared me for college. The provision of these services is not something that exists in every state, and I am grateful to have been in a position to receive such an education. I believe the job of Maryland's elected officials is to ensure the education I was lucky enough to receive continues to be a reality for generations of students to come, while making investments to improve it further.

We are undoubtedly facing a budget crisis in Maryland, and steps must be taken to protect the services such as education that make Maryland such a great place to live. The Fair Share for Maryland Act encompasses these steps, addressing budget problems by increasing revenue without making cuts to the incredible services that Marylanders across the state rely on. This bill protects education in Maryland while preserving the crucial reforms made by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. It makes sure that future generations of students will be able to receive high quality educations that prepare them for college and beyond. It makes sure that students from low-income backgrounds who need to access this high-quality education will be able to do so. It fortifies Maryland's place as one of the best states for public education in the country.

Without this bill, Maryland will face significant cuts to education and the Blueprint, dealing a blow to both the progress of the Blueprint in improving equity in access to education and to the overall state of public education in Maryland. When we invest in education, we invest in our future. The Fair Share for Maryland Act would raise more than \$1.6 billion to support good schools, healthcare, transportation, and the state workforce needed to deliver high-quality services. It raises revenue by fixing Maryland's upside down tax system and ensuring all of us pay our fair share. It is essential for both Maryland's present and our future.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB 859.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Vengrin