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The Honorable Members of the Seante Committee

Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 859 (SB0859) - Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Hearing Date: March 05, 2025

Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen Wambui, and I am a proud Immigrant, parent, Community advocate and resident of Legislative District 8 in Maryland. I am writing today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 859, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025. This bill is a critical step in ensuring a fairer and more balanced tax system that prioritizes working families and supports our state's economic well-being.

As a member of a middle-class family, I understand the financial challenges that many hardworking Marylanders face. SB0859 provides much-needed relief to families by adjusting tax credit eligibility for dependent children. This means that more parents will receive tax benefits, helping them cover essential costs like childcare, education, and healthcare. At a time when the cost of living continues to rise, this bill provides meaningful support where it is needed most.

Additionally, this bill ensures that the wealthiest estates contribute their fair share in taxes. Maryland's current estate tax structure allows significant inheritances to pass with minimal taxation, reinforcing economic inequality. By adjusting the tax exemption limits, SB0859 promotes fairness while generating crucial revenue for public services, such as schools, infrastructure, and healthcare, that benefit all Marylanders.

Furthermore, the Business Transportation Fee introduced in SB0859 ensures that only the most profitable corporations—those earning over \$1 million—contribute to the state's transportation infrastructure. This fee is both reasonable and necessary, as large businesses significantly impact our roads and public transit systems. The revenue generated will help maintain and improve our transportation network without burdening small businesses or working-class taxpayers.

Opponents of this bill may argue that increased taxes on large estates and corporations could hurt economic growth. However, history has shown that modest adjustments to tax structures do not stifle business development. Instead, they ensure that Maryland remains a state where

opportunity is accessible to all, not just the wealthiest few. By passing SB0859, we are taking a step toward a fairer, more just economic system that uplifts working families and ensures that prosperous corporations contribute equitably.

I urge this committee to stand with Maryland's working families and pass SB0859. This legislation reflects our shared values of fairness, opportunity, and economic stability. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Wambui