

Date of Hearing: February 20, 2025

Cindy Brach
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TESTIMONY ON HB 1014- POSITION: FAVORABLE
The Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Cindy Brach

My name is Cindy Brach. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1014, The Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.

I am a very fortunate Maryland resident. I have never had to worry about money. My parents were able to put me through school so that I graduated debt-free. They helped me with a downpayment on my house in Silver Spring. I have been able to save money and retire at the age of 63. Both my husband and I expect to inherit money and, in turn, to leave money to our sons.

There are others in Maryland who are no less deserving, but who suffer from food or housing insecurity. Or they need public health care or mental health services. Or they can't afford to further their education so they can get a better paying job.

I am ashamed of the inequity in our country and in our state. For example, over half of children in Maryland qualify for free or reduced-price meals. These families need help and provisions in The Fair Share, such as the increase in the child tax credit, will make a big difference to them. We are a wealthy state, a supposedly civilized nation, and yet we let people go without the basics. I would gladly pay more in taxes in order to support those who have not been as lucky as I am.

I believe that government should be judged on how it protects our society's most vulnerable members. I shudder to think of what essential services will be cut if the Fair Share Act is not passed. We have a moral obligation to make our tax code more progressive. And while I want to pay my fair share, I expect corporations to do the same.

Maryland's projected deficit makes passage of the Fair Share Act urgent. We have an opportunity to preserve critical services and make the tax code more just. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 1014.**