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TESTIMONY ON HB#1014 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Fair Share Plan for Maryland

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

FROM: Susan Allen

My name is Susan Allen. I am a resident of 30A. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1014, Fair Share for Maryland Plan.

I am a member of MD Poor People's Campaign (MDPPC) and Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT).

Overall, this bill will increase funding for essential services that Marylanders desperately need- especially families with children, working adults, older citizens, and people with disabilities.

As a member of MD PPC that bases its actions on poverty data, I know that the income and wealth distribution has become much more unequal in the last 30-40 years— impacting 36.1% of Marylanders between 2018-2020. One of the many reasons that corporations, out-of-state businesses and wealthy Marylanders stay rich is their ability to pay a relatively small proportion of their income in taxes (often legally). This bill increases the number of tax brackets and therefore makes income taxes more progressive. Also, as a Marylander, I know that our state has serious budget shortfalls through 2030 that will require cutting of vital services in our state. The Fair Share Plan is projected to increase tax revenue by \$1.6 billion per year, which could only help relieve this shortfall.

My Christian moral tradition emphasizes the importance of paying taxes in order to support the common good. Finally, from my experience standing beside low-wealth and working Maryland residents, people of every race and ethnicity use government services, BUT people with disabilities, poor, and low- and moderate-income Marylanders need them more.

To sum up, I support the Fair Share for Maryland Plan, not just because it will fairly tax corporations (who now pay less than their fair share), but because it could bring needed revenue to the State of Maryland to support the basic human rights and needs of all Marylanders.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1014

Your Name

