

Testimony in <u>SUPPORT</u> of HB 1014 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 Del. Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair House Ways and Means Committee February 20, 2025

The Fair Share Maryland coalition strongly supports HB 1014, the Fair Share for Maryland Act, because it will provide resources that our communities need to thrive and ensure that wealthy corporations and individuals are contributing their fair share to the public services we all benefit from.

In the six years our coalition has been advocating for proposals to close corporate loopholes and ensure the wealthiest Marylanders pay their fair share, our state has left hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue on the table each year that could be supporting schools, transit service, climate response, health care, housing, child care and other critical needs. Instead, the legislature is currently considering proposed cuts in funding for public schools, services for people with disabilities, child care scholarships, and more, while still facing multi-billion-dollar deficit projections in future years that threaten to further undermine the services our communities rely on.

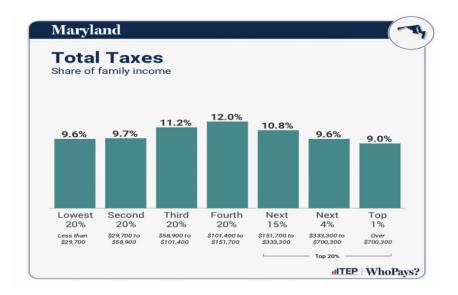
The choice is clear: Maryland must act now to raise revenue to avoid severe budget cuts in this and future years that will harm working families and undermine our state's economy.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act will:

- Raise at least \$1.6 billion per year in new revenue when fully phased in
- Lower taxes for more than 1.3 million Marylanders by expanding the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit
- Close corporate tax loopholes to ensure wealthy multinational corporations can't avoid paying state taxes
- Balance our upside-down tax system and ensure millionaires pay their fair share by adding upper income tax brackets and adding a surtax on investment income

These policies will not only raise much-needed revenue, they also address aspects of our current tax system that are fundamentally unfair. Today, 1/3 of the 150 largest corporations doing business in Maryland pay zero income taxes in a typical year while the small local businesses they compete with are supporting their communities through taxes. And, the wealthiest 1% of Marylanders, those earning

more than \$700,000 per year, pay a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than every other income group.



Marylanders recognize that our tax system is unfair and want to change it. Public opinion polling has consistently shown strong support among Marylanders for closing corporate tax loopholes and increasing taxes on millionaires. For example, an <u>October 2023 Hart Research poll</u> found that 79% of Marylanders support proposals to close corporate tax loopholes and 77% favor increasing income taxes on millionaires, among other findings.

Fair Share Maryland includes thousands of individual supporters and more than 75 organizations across a broad range of sectors who collectively represent tens thousands of members throughout the state. Our coalition members are concerned about proposed cuts to public services and are committed to a fair tax system that provides the resources that Marylanders need to thrive. We believe the Fair Share for Maryland Act is vital for the future of our families, our communities, and our economy.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on HB 1014.

Coalition members:

1199 SEIU ACLU Advance Maryland AFSCME Council 3 AFT Maryland Anne Arundel County Food Bank Anne Arundel County Literacy Council, Inc.

- Association of Community Services of Howard County
- ATU Local 689
- ATU Local 1300
- Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
- Baltimore Teachers Union
- Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club
- Behavioral Health System Baltimore
- BetterTransitNOW
- CASA
- CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Children's Opportunity Alliance
- **Communities United**
- Community Advocates 4 You Inc
- Community Development Network of Maryland
- Cornerstone Community Housing, Inc.
- Counselors in the Community Association Co., CITCA
- Daniel Carl Torsch Foundation Inc
- Disability Rights Maryland
- Downtown Residents Advocacy Network
- **Economic Action Maryland**
- Frederick County Progressives
- Free State PTA
- Fondation afrique vision internationale
- Good Jobs First
- Jews United for Justice
- League of Women Voters of Maryland
- Light of Truth Center, Inc.
- Maple Ridge University
- Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education
- Maryland Center on Economic Policy
- Maryland Child Alliance
- Maryland Education Coalition
- Maryland Hunger Solutions
- Maryland Latinos Unidos
- Maryland Legislative Coalition
- Maryland Nonprofits
- Maryland Poor People's Campaign
- Maryland Rise

- Maryland School Counselor Association
- Maryland State Education Association
- Mental Health Association of Maryland
- Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.
- **Muslim Voices Coalition**
- NAACP Maryland
- NCADD-Maryland
- Northeast Catholic Community Social Action Team
- Our Revolution Maryland
- Park Heights Renaissance
- Patriotic Millionaires
- Progressive Maryland
- **Public Justice Center**
- Resource Generation Baltimore Chapter
- SEIU Local 500
- Sickle Cell Coalition of Maryland
- Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter
- Six Tool Solutions LLC
- Social Work Advocates for Social Change
- State Innovation Exchange
- Strong Schools Maryland
- Strongtowers Ministry Inc.
- The Community Salon Corporation
- The Coordinating Center
- The IMAGE Center for People With Disabilities
- The Joy of Living, INC.
- Thinkingforward
- Tru-Integrity Wellness & Counseling Center
- UNITE HERE Local 25
- We Refuse Inc.