

# **DEBBIE MICHAELS**

Written Testimony

HB1014

Fair Share for  
Maryland Act of 2025

I have lived in Maryland all of my life. I love living here and plan to retire here. I have worked in many industries from restaurants, to franchise headquarters, medical office support in the Jessup prisons, and data processing in a direct mail shop. For the last seventeen years I have worked at UMBC as administrative support in various departments. I am also the president of the local union and a member of a mutual aid organization in Westminster, Maryland.

My income is strictly by way of my job. I have never been in the financial position to purchase my own home and have lived in various rentals in Baltimore and Carroll counties my entire adult life. I have always struggled making ends meet but I get by. I don't mind paying taxes understanding that they contribute to the common good.

What is frustrating to me is knowing that hugely profitable multistate and multinational businesses in Maryland are able to avoid paying taxes due to corporate loopholes in our tax code. Not only do these businesses crush the competition of small and family owned businesses, the residents of Maryland bear the tax burden that these corporations exploit. Our tax dollars build the infrastructure, support the maintenance of the roads and bridges, fund community services and educate the workforce that they rely on every day while raking in mindboggling revenue.

I am thrilled to see so many representatives in Annapolis have signed on to this legislation. We need to stop expecting trickledown economics from the 1980's to open the floodgates of revenue from the top when they slashed the tax rates for the rich. It's been a failure. Corporate profits have skyrocketed. Income inequality shows that the rich are hoarding the wealth by investing in their financial portfolios, and keeping it in the family through inheritance tax laws.

Again, I don't mind paying taxes to contribute to the common good. But we need a tax system that is fair and closes the loopholes the wealthy and powerful have exploited to game the system.

Thank you for your consideration to support HB1014.

Sincerely,

Debbie Michaels  
President, AFSCME Local 1459  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

**Kathleen Kern**  
**Windsor Mill, 21244**

**Testimony in Support of HB 1014 – Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025**

*Presented to the House Ways and Means Committee*

February 20, 2025

My name is Kathleen Kern. I am a resident of District 10. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1014, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025.

I am a social worker who works at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center and a member and volunteer at Kadampa Meditation Center Maryland. I am in support of the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 as it supports funding for critical state offered services and the state employees providing the work. State employees live and work in Maryland. I am in support of strengthening our state system and its local workers.

Currently, Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center is severely understaffed which diminishes patient care provided, causes unsafe working conditions, and contributes to staff burnout and low morale. Staff retention is also low. New employees don't stay for long and seasoned employees are leaving. Having the funds to address the mounting problems is necessary. As a social worker, I lead my department's morale committee and serve as a union representative. It's apparent that we are under resourced and the staff are struggling.

As a middle class citizen and provider for a family of 3, it's hard to establish financial security. I work several jobs and am only able to pay for necessities and can barely afford that with inflation and rising electric costs this winter. I fear every day that I will have an expensive car repair or an illness that will leave me out of work for a few days. We are living paycheck to paycheck and are just getting by. A fairer distribution of tax costs could ease the stress of many middle class and low income citizens.

The Fair Share For Maryland Act of 2025 is an opportunity to designate funding for our under resourced state system, close the equity gap, and establish a fairer distribution of wealth among citizens. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1014.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Kern