

HB 1014_ Steve Metalitz_FAV

February 20, 2025

Steven J. Metalitz

Silver Spring MD 20910

TESTIMONY ON HB1014 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Fair Share for Maryland Act

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

FROM: Steven J. Metalitz

My name is Steve Metalitz, I reside in District 20. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1014, the Fair Share for Maryland Act.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views. And special thanks to my delegate, Vice Chair Wilkins, for co-sponsoring this important legislation.

I am 74 years old and have lived in Maryland nearly all my life. I have been the beneficiary of vital services from the state and Montgomery County, notably a good public education. Like me, my children both graduated from public schools in this state, and now my grandchildren are attending our public schools as well. Also, over the years, I have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in individual income taxes to the State of Maryland.

As a beneficiary of public services, I believe adequate funding for those services is of paramount importance. I have lived (relatively briefly) in states that have failed to provide this adequate funding, and the difference is obvious. As a taxpayer, it is of paramount importance to me that our tax system is fair and progressive, and that

wealthy individuals and corporations pay their fair share for the services from which they and their employees benefit. The fiscal crisis that Maryland faces today makes it all the more important that tax revenue be sufficient to defray the costs of necessary services, and that the burden of taxation be shared fairly.

The Fair Share Act will go far toward advancing both these goals. The Combined Reporting requirement for corporations will make it more difficult for big interstate and multinational companies to manipulate their income statements in order to avoid paying their fair share – or in too many cases, anything at all – for the services on which they and their employees depend. It would provide relief to lower income Marylanders through expansion of Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Individual tax rates would become more progressive by introducing two new tax brackets for the highest-income Marylanders – the 1%. And funds would be allocated for more auditors in the Comptroller's Office, to help close the tax gap which costs Maryland an estimated \$3 billion annually.

In all, the Fair Share Act would contribute some \$1.6 billion toward righting the fiscal imbalance that currently besets our state. The time has come to enact this vitally needed legislation. Thank you for considering my views, and please issue a favorable report on HB 1014.