

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1014** Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

House Ways and Means Committee February 20, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to provide testimony on House Bill 1014 - Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 to ensure that Marylanders have the necessary resources they need while ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals contribute their fair share for the public services we all benefit from such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

CASA is a national powerhouse organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities. With a membership of over 173,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. For nearly forty years, CASA has employed grassroots community organizing to bring our communities closer together and fight for justice, while simultaneously providing much-needed services, helping to ensure that low-income immigrants can live rich and full lives.

In 2022, undocumented immigrant communities in Maryland contributed an estimated \$779.3 million in taxes, demonstrating their significant role in supporting the state's public services.<sup>1</sup> Despite this substantial contribution, immigrant and working-class communities are disproportionately affected by budgetary challenges, facing cuts and limitations in essential services.

CASA advocates for the Fair Share for Maryland Act as a necessary step toward economic fairness. This legislation ensures that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes, helping to generate the revenue needed to sustain and improve public programs. By closing tax loopholes and increasing corporate accountability, HB 1014 seeks to create a more just and equitable financial system that benefits all Maryland residents, particularly those who have historically shouldered the greatest burdens.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Study says undocumented immigrants paid almost \$97 billion in taxes - Maryland Matters.

HB1014 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

Maryland is on the brink of a historical deficit. However, we are a diverse and prosperous state with the ability to implement a progressive tax code in which working-class families and residents can make an equitable contribution towards a balanced budget while our wealthiest community members and corporate leadership simultaneously contribute their fair share.

A thriving state economy is generated through a strong education system, high quality healthcare and access to affordable childcare which in turn created greater employment opportunities for Maryland's diverse workforce. However, we cannot stimulate our economy if we do not invest in these critical public services and we cannot effectively invest in these critical public services without an updated and equitable sources of state revenue.

## CASA respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1014.