



SUPPORT: House Bill 1014
Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025

Ways and Means Committee
February 20, 2025

The Blueprint Coalition, a 30+ member organization representing hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and co-led by representatives of Strong Schools Maryland and the Maryland State Education Association, dedicated to the full implementation and funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, **strongly supports the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025 (HB 1014)** because it will generate sustainable revenue to fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and other essential public services. At a time when the state faces a \$6 billion structural deficit, we cannot afford to repeat past mistakes—where bold education reforms were passed but left underfunded. The General Assembly and Administration must maintain their commitment to fully funding the Blueprint, not just for its implementation timeline but for the long term.

Without legislative action, the Blueprint Special Fund will be depleted by FY27, jeopardizing the future of Maryland's students. HB 1014 provides a responsible, progressive revenue plan to ensure that large multinational corporations and the wealthiest Marylanders contribute their fair share, just as small businesses and working families already do.

Recent budget proposals from both the Governor's Office and the Legislature include education funding cuts, despite the fact that public education is not a driver of the FY26 or FY27 deficit. These financial threats disproportionately harm low-income students, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities, the very groups the Blueprint was designed to support. Without new, sustainable revenue, Maryland's education system will not only fail to improve but will backslide, failing another generation of students.

HB 1014 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, ensuring multinational corporations pay their fair share.

- Balance our upside-down tax system, so millionaires contribute fairly by implementing upper-income tax brackets and a surtax on investment income.

We cannot grow our economy if we are cutting back on public schools, child care, and transportation - services that businesses and working Marylanders rely on. The wealthiest Marylanders, those earning over \$700,000 per year, currently pay a lower tax rate than any other income group. HB 1014 corrects this imbalance while keeping Maryland competitive and ensuring the state can invest in education without harmful budget cuts.

Additionally, State Comptroller Lierman has made it clear that her office requires several years' lead time to hire staff and update systems for auditing these revenue measures. Delaying action now means delaying funding solutions for years, putting the Blueprint and other critical programs at risk.

In the early 2000s, Maryland passed the Bridge to Excellence Act, a landmark education reform effort, only to fail to fully fund it after the 2008 financial crisis. We don't have to repeat that mistake. We know the pitfalls ahead, and we have a viable solution in HB 1014.

For these reasons, the Blueprint Coalition urges the committee to issue a Favorable Report on HB 1014.

Please contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.