



Testimony - HB 983, State Tax Credits, Modifications, and Exemptions - Alterations and
Repeal
Favorable
House Ways & Means Committee
March 5, 2026
Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairwoman Wilkins & Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents thousands of public service and education workers who see firsthand the consequences of chronic underinvestment in public services—underinvestment driven in part by a tax system that is allowing those with more to avoid paying their fair share. At its core, this bill is about tax fairness and protecting the public systems that working families depend on every single day.

When everyone pays their fair share, Maryland can properly fund our public schools, our community colleges, and the essential services that keep our economy moving. But when tax policy allows inequities or loopholes to persist, it is working families who pay the price — through underfunded classrooms, reduced student services, and instability in the very systems that make opportunity possible.

Our members see the consequences firsthand. When public systems are stretched thin, educational support professionals are asked to do more with less. Students lose access to services. Class sizes increase. Maintenance and safety needs go unmet. These are not abstract budget issues — they are real impacts on children and families.

House Bill 983 moves Maryland toward a fairer and more sustainable revenue structure. By strengthening tax fairness, this legislation helps ensure that we can continue investing in high-quality public education, safe schools, affordable higher education, and strong community infrastructure.

Working families should not be subsidizing those with the greatest ability to contribute. A fair tax system is how we build a strong middle class and ensure long-term economic stability for our State.

SEIU Local 500 believes that protecting public systems requires a revenue structure that reflects our shared responsibility. House Bill 983 helps advance that goal.

For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 urges a favorable report on House Bill 983.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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SEIU Local 500