



Testimony in Support of HB 926 - Income Tax – Individual Itemized Deductions – Alterations
House Ways and Means Committee
February 26, 2026

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice-Chair Feldmark, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, I strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably for HB 926, Income Tax – Individual Itemized Deductions – Alterations.

Wealthy individuals were among the biggest beneficiaries of the 2025 federal tax changes, with the wealthiest 1% of households expected to get more than \$66,000 knocked off of their annual taxes, on average. Low- and moderate-income households are expected to see very little change in their income taxes while potentially losing supports that help them afford health care and food.

Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) strongly supports decoupling our state tax code from these federal tax changes to protect resources that Maryland families and communities need to thrive. We should not double down and provide additional, costly state tax breaks on top of the federal windfall the privileged few have already received.

The Anne Arundel County Food Bank serves an average of 52,000 individuals each month with food and critical supplies across Anne Arundel County. Demand for these services continues to rise, particularly as safety-net benefits are reduced or eliminated for households nationwide, including changes to SNAP.

Recent federal changes to SNAP are estimated to cost the State of Maryland approximately \$58 million per year in additional administrative costs alone, with the potential for even greater costs if benefit liabilities are shifted to the state. Food-insecure Marylanders cannot afford policy decisions that reduce state resources while simultaneously weakening access to critical safety-net programs that families rely on to meet basic needs.

H.R. 1 quadrupled the federal income tax deduction for state and local taxes. If Maryland adopts this change to our state tax code, it would cost millions in state revenue while benefiting only wealthy individuals who own very expensive or multiple properties. Taxes on vacation homes are still deductible, even if they are located in another state. Further, with the higher standard deduction adopted at the federal and state levels in recent years, most working families don't even itemize deductions, so the cap has no effect on their taxes.

With the deficits the state is projecting in the coming years, Maryland can't afford a tax break for well-off property owners. We ask the committee to make a favorable report on HB 926. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Aiello Paley".

Leah Aiello Paley, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer