



Testimony  
Bill 25-0036: Fair Share PILOT Taskforce  
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Chairwoman Danielle McCray and Members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee,

My name is Renee Neal, and I'm a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. I'm 65 years old and was born and raised in East Baltimore, where I still live and now own a home. I like where I live and I'm proud of my community, so I am also active in my neighborhood association. I have worked at a hospital that is part of the PILOT agreement for 30 years. I urge this Committee to issue a **favorable** report on Bill 25-0036, with **no weakening** amendments.

Our city services need a lot of work. We don't get street sweepers out enough, and when I call 311 for assistance, no one ever comes to help. Supervisors talk to me and promise me they will send someone out but it never happens. Basic issues don't get fixed: I've asked for an abandoned car, that has 6 year old expired tags, behind my house to be towed, but it's been sitting there for three months. It's gotten to the point where I think it'd be easier to call my city councilmember directly. I should not have to fight so hard to get basic city services.

I'm also concerned about our kids. They are our future; they're going to take our place, so it's important for our schools to function. Without a healthy K-12 school system, we cannot thrive as a city. It's like a flower that grows at the root. We need good quality books, hot lunches, and teachers who are paid a respectable wage. Our schools could be so much better if anchor institutions paid their fair share. We could hire 480 more teachers. We could have better career and technical education (CTE) programs for kids so they can get the skills they need to get good jobs working for the city of Baltimore!

Meds and eds benefit from the state's spending and infrastructure, and they have their own wealth, so they should pay their fair share. We all have to pay our taxes, and even still, we don't have the resources we need. Emergency Room wait times are often 10+ hours.

That could change if everyone paid their fair share. If I'm paying, you're paying. My property taxes are \$5,000 a year. Everyone else has to pay bills, so do these institutions. If everybody paid their fair share then there wouldn't be so much burden on the most vulnerable people in our city, and our city services like trash pickup and 311 would have more funding. Please vote YES on a strong version of this bill. Thank you.