

Bill 25-0036 Testimony by Ilana Ginsberg
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My name is Ilana Ginsberg, and I'm a Bolton Hill resident in District 11. I'm with JUFJ and the With Us, For Us Coalition. I have an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University. I support City Council Bill 25-0036.

Baltimore City's 14 wealthiest tax-exempt hospitals and universities cost the city \$47 million annually, but they pay the city only \$6 million, based on the PILOT agreement signed in 2016. That means that these institutions are a drain on our city, requiring taxpayers like me to cover the \$41 million gap in city services that they benefit from but do not pay for. Baltimore residents are the backbone of support for Baltimore City, but we don't receive the city services that we deserve.

Just last month, Baltimore City's already underfunded school system had to cut tutoring and after school programs as a result of federal funding cuts. I plan to send my daughter to Baltimore City public schools in a few years, and I hope with all my heart that her classmates will have safe places to spend their afternoons, extra attention and support to keep up with school as needed, and food to fill their bellies. The school system lacks funds for critical school programs. Children growing up in Baltimore deserve better.

Baltimore's wealthy institutions need to be made to look at the city where they reside, the city in which they continue to build and expand their tax-exempt real estate holdings. The unmet needs and inequities in our city are immense. Negotiating a PILOT agreement which directs large tax-exempt institutions to pay for the city services on which they rely would be a step in the right direction.

Thank you.