



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

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

My name is David Saucedo. I am a homeowner in Baltimore City District 14, and a healthcare worker at one of the hospitals under the current PILOT agreement. I urge this Committee to issue a **favorable** report on Bill 25-0036, with **no weakening** amendments. Every Baltimorean - including anchor institutions – needs to pay for the city services we all rely on. The PILOT Task Force will ensure there is a transparent, balanced and democratic process to determine fair PILOT contributions.

Anchor institutions *not* paying their fair share burdens residents with higher costs. If anchors paid for what they utilize in services, the City could have enough money to repair 72 miles of road. Every day that I drive to work, my Mini Cooper hits potholes and road bumps. The cost for alignments is up to \$200, and I have two cars. Recently my partner and I had to pay \$2,000 to fix the suspension on our Honda. I used to work 12-hour shifts three days a week, and my employer changed my schedule to 8-hour shifts five days a week. Additional days means I spend more on gas and wear and tear, this adds up quickly. Bad road conditions aren't only a financial concern for residents, it's a safety concern too. I was in a car accident because another car hit a pothole then slammed into my car. Thankfully I was uninjured, but God forbid someone gets into an accident and needs to go to a hospital. Maryland hospitals are 46th in staffed beds and have the longest emergency department wait times in the country. Healthcare workers are burnt out, overworked, and understaffed and patients are struggling to get timely care.

When I cut my finger at work, my employer instructed me to get in-house treatment and follow ups. To my surprise, I received a bill, then **my employer filed a medical debt lawsuit against me** after I informed them I wasn't paying because it should be covered by workers compensation. I was ultimately able to get the suit dropped because I knew my rights, but not everyone does. My case is exceptional, not because I was threatened with a lawsuit, but because I was able to get it withdrawn. A study co-authored by the AFL-CIO found it's common for Baltimore's nonprofit hospitals to sue their own employees over medical debt.

My experience getting the medical debt lawsuit dropped because I was an informed union worker demonstrates why it is so important that the PILOT Task Force have **equal** representation between unions and institutions. Workers deal with institutions not paying their fair share at work *and* when we go home to communities to high property taxes and inadequate city services. Equal representation ensures a true democratic process. Workers' voices matter. Trump wants to gut our unions and take us back to the Gilded Age. If you reduce labor seats on the PILOT Task Force, you are doing Trump's work for him! He is trying to dim us, but YOU can make Baltimore shine brighter for everyone. Pass a strong version of this bill where workers have an equal seat at the table in OUR city. Thank you for your time and peace be with you all.