

TO: Chair McCray, Vice Chair Schleifer, and Members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee

FROM: Lyndah Lovell

My name is Lyndah Lovell. I am a resident of Baltimore City District 9. I am submitting this testimony in support of Council Bill 25-0036-Baltimore City Payment in Lieu of Taxes Task Force, and urge a favorable report with no weakening amendments.

I am a 2nd year PhD graduate student in the Neuroscience Department at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. I am proud to be a member of this institution and the broader Baltimore community. I see the impact Hopkins has on the healthcare, well-being, and growth of Baltimore. Students of Baltimore City public high schools attend summer programs with our various biomedical laboratories, for example, but the greatest impact would come from aid that extends beyond one summer. Aid that extends beyond one summer program, and reaches these students' families and these students' communities, that is true impact – and this bill will achieve it.

What really generates power and wealth in a community is retention. Once money is invested in these students for one summer, where do they go from there? How do we keep them in school with supportive families at home? These communities they live in have to be sustained: healthy food options close by, local businesses, maintained parks for physical exercise, and school-led STEM projects year-round. These are just some of many resources that would be sustained by a fund devoted to the community from the community. I know I am not alone when I say that giving money can be hard, but it's not when it ultimately benefits the community: me *and* others. The Task Force from With Us For Us aims to support the entire Baltimore community by everyone paying what is needed. That is what this bill will achieve and that is why I support it.

My letter will be one of countless that support this bill. There will be many examples of what this bill means to each person, all that is missing now is your testimony. I kindly request that you take a moment to consider what this bill means to you and your life, your family, and what power you want for Baltimore. Take a moment to consider the bill's effectiveness, its outcomes, its success. Investing generates wealth, or else no one would do it, so it's time to see that return.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass Council Bill #25-0036 without any weakening amendments.