

May 13, 2025  
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Baltimore, MD 21211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL# 25-0036**  
**Property Taxes– Baltimore City Payment in Lieu of Taxes Task Force**

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

**FROM:** Briana Ciccarino

My name is Briana and I'm a resident of Baltimore City's 7th district. 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 proudly work, live, volunteer, vote, attend church, and advocate in Baltimore City. I am a member of Jews United for Justice (a coalition member of **The With Us For Us Coalition**), I am an alumna of two Baltimore based universities, and I am a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church community. I am a full time hospital social worker and part time activist. I'm writing supporting testimony on Bill 25-0036 because it's time that non profit institutions pay their fair share in taxes to help this city flourish.

The PILOT agreement, first negotiated in 2016, was decided on between the Mayor's office and 14 anchor institutions without transparency and without the city council or community input. I am a proud alumna of one of those anchor institutions, Loyola University Maryland. I take great pride in the community involvement Loyola has in and with the York Road corridor and throughout the city. However, I believe and know they can contribute more.

Anchor institutions use \$47 million worth of city services per year. That's \$41 million more than they contribute through the current PILOT. We need to bridge this gap and so we are inviting them to work with us. We benefit from these anchor institutions as they benefit from all of us. We are asking that they recognize that we are in this together. We know it will be feasible. In the past 15 years, cities along the eastern corridor - including New Haven, Boston, and Providence - have renegotiated PILOT agreements with resident wealthy, tax-exempt institutions. Those cities currently earn between 2-10 times as much revenue from their PILOT agreements as Baltimore does today. And their anchor institutions continue to thrive, not in spite of, but because of the strengthened relationship with the city stemming from those renegotiations. This bill is a much-needed and long-awaited step toward bringing in revenue for basic city services that can build a better Baltimore for all.

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

Briana Ciccarino  
District 7 Baltimore City Resident