



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

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

My name is Carolyn Taylor Chester. I'm a healthcare worker and member of 1199SEIU. I've lived in Baltimore since I was a baby, and currently reside in District 8. I have two sons, 5 grandchildren, and one great grandchild that live in Baltimore City. I urge this Committee to issue a **favorable** report on Bill 25-0036, with **no weakening** amendments, because I want my family to benefit from well funded city services. Working people are struggling to get the services we need because the institutions under the current PILOT agreement are not contributing enough to cover the cost of the city services they use. They get tax breaks while we get tax hikes, fines and fees - and we don't have the luxury of endowments to tap into.

If the anchor institutions paid their fair share, the City would have enough money to hire 480 new teachers and librarians. I want my grandchildren and great grandchild to have opportunities in life that come from having quality public education, and before and after school programs. For me to go to work and focus on my job, providing high quality healthcare for *your* loved ones, I need to know *my* loved ones are safe.

The bus system in Baltimore is unreliable and bus stops are too far apart. It is burdensome to walk too many blocks to the bus stop, especially when I have to carry bags with me. When buses run late, it's hard to know if I will get to work on time. I care about my patients and I don't want to risk my job due to tardiness, so I have to spend ~\$100/week on Lyft instead of ~\$30/week on the bus. Universities have private transportation systems that use our roads, which they don't pay to maintain. If these institutions really want to be a part of Baltimore, they need to contribute to Baltimore - not create their own systems that don't benefit residents and then pass us the bill. If they paid their fair share, that money could be used to improve transportation for everyone.

The PILOT Task Force must have equal representation between unions and institutions to ensure the recommendations are fair to everyone. Union workers are the voice of the people. We work in these institutions so we know how they operate, and we live in communities that are under-resourced because the institutions don't pay their fair share. Please vote YES on this bill, and give workers a real voice in the process. Thank you.