

**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: Stephanie Hare

05/12/2025

Good morning,

My name is Stephanie Hare, and I am providing testimony in support of Bill #25-0036. I've lived in Catonsville the last 4 years, but when I moved here in July 2018, I spent my first 2.5 years in Baltimore City (Patterson Park). I'm from Wisconsin originally, had just finished my PhD work in Atlanta (Georgia State) and got a competitive postdoc position at UMaryland School of Medicine, Psychiatry. I work on clinical trials for people with severe mental illness. One of the main reasons that I support this bill is that I've studied ethics/philosophy for years and highly value transparency – in life in general and government processes. I think that the re-negotiation of these pilot funds should be a fair and transparent process!

When I arrived in Baltimore, I saw neighborhoods all over that looked like they've been forgotten. I thought, "we really need to invest in these folks and their communities". I work daily with a lot of mental health counselors and social workers. One of them told me that they could not get much done in her sessions with internship at Baltimore Public Schools because the kids were in coats, focused on staying warm in the school, because it had no heat. It caused me to re-evaluate "what the current priorities are" to support these kids and their communities. I got involved in WUFU roughly 8 weeks ago, because their message of making sure institutions "pay their fair share" to (re)invest in our Baltimore communities really resonated with me. We need to (re)invest in our children, our libraries, those with mental health struggles, those living in neighborhoods with housing boarded up (next to affluent communities).

In conclusion, I support Bill #25-0036.

Thank you,

Stephanie Hare, PhD  
Assistant Professor