



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 973

Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness – Reports on Housing Status

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 5, 2020

Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Margo Quinlan, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

Advocates for Children and Youth
Baltimore Jewish Council
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Catholic Charities
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Family League of Baltimore
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Health Care for the Homeless
Homeless Persons
Representation Project
Job Opportunities Task Force
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Catholic Conference
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Community Action
Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Paul's Place
Public Justice Center
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports SB 973, which require the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Human Services to submit specific reports to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness.

Departmental data is valuable tool in the effort to address and end homelessness in Maryland. Each report that SB 973 requires will provide critical information to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness, and will help in determining which programs are working well, which goal are being met, and where there are systematic gaps in services. The data that SB 973 requests includes information on the status of patients discharged from hospitals, housing status of inmates released in the previous 12 months, and housing status of those served by workforce development programs – important information that allow the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness to carry out its goals.

Accurate data is necessary to allocate resources. With a greater wealth of information, the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness can better determine how to address homelessness in Maryland and work with advocates and service providers to meet the areas of greatest need.

MAP appreciates your consideration, and strongly urges a favorable report on SB 973.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.