



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 482

Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions,
Governments, and Households(ENOUGH) Grant Program
(ENOUGH Act of 2024)

*House Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2024 1pm*

Submitted by Mark Huffman, Co-Chair

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Anne Arundel County Food Bank

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

Bridges to Housing Stability

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,
Inc.

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports SB 482, which possesses an intentional focus on building the intersection between community impact and reducing child poverty by addressing systemic barriers.

SB 482 creates an additional opportunity for human capital investment in support of improving outcomes for children and families, while laying the foundation to meet the critical gaps in infrastructure at the community level. If passed, this bill will also harness the power of community impact from early childcare and education to affordable housing, and public safety. This funding represents a direct investment in communities experiencing multi-generational poverty and its repercussions. Continuous investment in these communities through programs provides residents with opportunities to overcome barriers and challenges they would otherwise face. The ENOUGH Act supports cradle-to-career investments in youth and families, a strategy the State would benefit from.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 482.

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.