

March 22, 2024

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Executive Director

**RE: HB694/SB482 – The ENOUGH Act**

Dear Chair Barnes and Chair Peña-Melnyk,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Community Action Agency (MCAP) regarding our strong support for HB694/SB482, the ENOUGH Act. As representatives of MCAP, which includes member agencies such as United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) and the Community Action Agency of Anne Arundel County, we have been deeply involved in combating child poverty in Maryland for decades.

We were very pleased to see the Moore-Miller Administration's proposal for the ENOUGH Act, which represents a groundbreaking initiative to eliminate child poverty in our state. Throughout the summer, fall, and winter, our team met with Secretaries Day and Lopez, agency directors, staff, and elected officials to advocate for the establishment of an "Anti-Poverty Fund," with a requested allocation of \$9 million statewide. Therefore, we are particularly encouraged by the Governor's request for \$15 million for the ENOUGH Act, which aligns with our mission to prioritize the well-being of children and foster supportive communities.

The ENOUGH Act emphasizes partnerships and relationships that are already integral to the work of our member agencies. While we understand that there may not be a designated portion of competitive grants specifically earmarked for programs working with Community Action Agencies (CAAs) statewide, we respectfully request language in the bill ensuring that CAAs are included in the coalition and serve as fiduciaries. Our member agencies possess the necessary expertise and community connections to effectively implement the ENOUGH Act at the local level, while also conducting the data collection and analysis required by the legislation.

Our lobbyist, Darrell Carrington of Carrington & Associates, LLC, has been meeting with members of your committee to articulate our position and express our sincere commitment to supporting and administering this impactful legislation. He will be visiting your offices this week to provide further briefing to your staff. We humbly request that you consider our perspective as you deliberate on this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and advocacy efforts to address child poverty in Maryland. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [amartin@maryland-cap.org](mailto:amartin@maryland-cap.org) for further information.

Best regards,

*Angela Martin*

Angela Martin  
Executive Director, Maryland Community Action Partnership