



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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Chairman Ben Barnes
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Barnes and members of the Appropriations Committee

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for **House Bill 694/Senate Bill 482 – Governor’s Office for Children – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)**, a bill that codifies the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) and appoints the head of the Special Secretary of the GOC. It also requires the Special Secretary of the GOC to design place-based strategies to target child poverty in Maryland. **The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland gives it unanimous support to this legislation.**

The ENOUGH Act is a first-in-the-nation effort to address and end concentrated poverty. Through place-based interventions in selected communities across the State, the ENOUGH initiative will give Black communities the support and resources they need to identify the root causes of poverty in their neighborhoods and begin to address them. Because poverty looks different in every neighborhood, communities working under the ENOUGH Act will work with community organizations, non-profits, anchor institutions, and other key community members to build a locally-focused plan of action for alleviating poverty among low-income Black Marylanders. The Governor has set aside \$15 million in this year’s budget to fund the initiative in its first year.

House Bill 694/Senate Bill 482 will address concentrated poverty in low-income Black communities across Maryland. It will give them the resources and opportunity to tackle intergenerational poverty, which will help tackle crime in turn, and increase educational and economic opportunities in Black communities. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports **HB 694/SB 482** and asks that you vote favorably on this bill.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland