Maryland Association of
LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

Testimony in Support of the ENOUGH Act

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Education, Energy and Environment Sub Committee

To: Chairman Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Sub
Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, we are in support of the
Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments and Households (ENOUGH)
Act of 2024.

Over thirty years ago, Maryland established a three-pronged approach to health and human
services that has consistently received national recognition. The Children's Cabinet, Governor's
Office for Children and Local Management Boards make up this infrastructure with Local
Management Boards as the conduit between the state and local communities. All 24 LMBs act as
the neutral convenor of our local collective impact strategies tackling issues that contribute to
child poverty such as food insecurity, behavioral and mental health, education, workforce
development and the racial disparities that compound these issues. We understand that each
neighborhood is unique and experiences different challenges while leveraging unique assets. Our
job is to understand these assets and challenges, work together with institutions, organizations
and community to address these needs so children, youth, their families and their communities
can thrive.

One way we achieve this in Howard County is through our place-based strategy called Local
Leadership Teams. Our approach aims to support community members by identifying inclusive
strategies to eliminate disparities while working toward the cultivation of shared values and
vision for more equitable communities in Howard County. This effort provides neighborhoods
with a process for re-envisioning community that allows proper attention to the creative
integration of people, places and processes that supports community needs while building
stronger bonds among its members. A starting place is a shared vision of **a people** who embrace
the notion of unity in their community. It is about ensuring **a place** that embodies a spirit of
community rich with opportunity, supportive services and essential resources developed with
community input, and maintained and enhanced by the community with support from key
community stakeholders, quality service providers and local government. It is also about **a
process** for creating an environment that supports equitable healthy growth and development,
safety and security of all individuals, families, organizations and businesses throughout the entire
community. Launched in 2018, our Local Leadership Team model for community partnership
has proven to be an important step towards achieving valuable outcomes for Howard County. In
2018 the Oakland Mills Local Leadership Team was conceptualized, in 2019 OMLLT's
leadership and organizational structure was formalized and beneficial supports were realized by
the residents of Oakland Mills Village, and by 2020 the OMLLT became a key community
partnership, well positioned as a trusted community resource to help support Oakland Mills
residents through the COVID 19 crisis.

Our approach differs from the traditional deficit view of community support to a strength-based approach that empowers community members by placing them in roles as leaders and decision makers. Public agencies are supportive with resources, delivering technical assistance and training as determined by the community.

The mission of Local Management Boards is to meet the needs of Maryland's most vulnerable children, youth, and families during a time when those needs and gaps in services are growing. Together, we can transform outcomes for Maryland's children, youth, and families, even with mounting challenges in our communities. The ENOUGH Act enhances and expands place-based work of Local Management Boards to tackle child poverty at the neighborhood level for significant impact and improved outcomes.

We urge you to support the ENOUGH Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Eisenreich
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards
Co-Chair