



Human Services Programs
of Carroll County, Inc.

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2/29/2024

Re: In Support of SB482, The ENOUGH ACT

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

On behalf of Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc, I urge you to support the ENOUGH ACT. As the Executive Director of Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc, I see the effects of childhood poverty each day. As a member of the Maryland Community Action Partnership, my colleagues and I work diligently to support thousands of families in poverty each day. The Maryland Community Action Partnership is the organization made up of Maryland's 17 community action agencies which together serve every Maryland county. Together, we work toward ending homelessness and reducing poverty for all Marylanders.

The ENOUGH Grant Program, with its focus on place-based strategies, is a commendable effort to address child poverty at its roots. By targeting communities with over 20% child poverty, the bill ensures that resources are directed to those areas most in need. The purposes of ENOUGH grants, including promoting community health and safety, providing comprehensive education and care, facilitating access to quality jobs, and ensuring family sustaining income and essential services, demonstrate a holistic and proactive approach to improving the well-being of children.

While we support the overall goals of the ENOUGH Act, we recommend an amendment to the legislation. Specifically, we propose that 50% of the funding allocated for the ENOUGH Act be made available exclusively to existing Community Action Agencies, as identified by the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP). These agencies have a proven track record of effectively addressing community needs and are well positioned to implement the objectives outlined in the bill.

Sincerely,

Scott Yard
Executive Director
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