



**Hearing Testimony March 1, 2024
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Bill 482 – The Enough Act**

SUPPORT

Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CTW, CLC

Hello, my name is Travis Simon and I with SEIU Local 500. Chairman, Vice-Chair, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee it is my honor to testify in support of Senate Bill 482 – ENOUGH ACT.

SEIU Local 500 represents over 20,000 working people in Maryland.

Including:

1. support staff at Montgomery County Public Schools
2. Family Childcare Providers across the state of Maryland
3. Faculty & Staff at several Maryland colleges and universities
4. And many other workers.

As an organization, we believe that when communities thrive, students thrive, and we pride ourselves on the fact that our members can play a critical role in a student's educational career from early childhood to their completion of a terminal degree. This unique situation gives our organization a holistic perspective of what is needed to provide a top-of-the-line education from start to finish.

FOR THIS REASON, we strongly urge the passage of SB 482.

The ENOUGH Act is a first-in-the-nation, state-level effort to end concentrated poverty. For too long, communities in Maryland have experienced multi-generational poverty and its consequences. Through place-based interventions across the State, the ENOUGH Act will give communities the support and tools they need to identify the root causes of poverty in their neighborhoods and begin to address them.

SEIU understands the need to support children, their families, and the communities surrounding that child. We believe that it truly takes a village to raise the next generation of Marylander's.

As an educator union, we continuously witness the profound and detrimental impact that poverty imposes on a student's ability to learn. The stark reality is that poverty isn't just a socioeconomic status; it's a barrier to academic achievement and lifelong success.

Students grappling with poverty often face formidable challenges beyond the classroom, from insufficient access to educational resources such as textbooks and technology to inadequate nutrition, which directly impacts their cognitive development and concentration.

**Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CtW, CLC
901 Russell Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
301-740-7100 www.seiu500.org
Pia Morrison, President**



Our members know that ensuring all children have access to high quality education will equip individuals, families, and communities for future success. The ENOUGH ACT will help communities live up to our promise to provide equal opportunities for all.

We would like to thank Governor Moore for bringing this legislation forward. With your support, we can guarantee that children in Maryland communities everywhere have the same equitable opportunities for success and that the marker for a solid education is no longer determined by one's zip code.

We ask for your support for SB 482 and strongly urge a favorable committee report!

THANK YOU!

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