

senate ENOUGH testimony_2.29.24.pdf

Uploaded by: Amanda Meatyard

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of the ENOUGH Act

Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

To: Chairman Feldman and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

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

As the Local Management Board Coordinator for St. Mary's County, it is exciting to support an initiative to address multi-generational poverty. Historically, Local Management Boards have been the caretakers of The Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund ensuring State dollars are strategically invested in local needs, such as addressing child poverty. Research shows children living in poverty experience daily impacts such as hunger, illness, insecurity, and instability but they also are more likely to experience low academic achievement, obesity, behavioral problems, as well as social emotional developmental difficulties. Increased stressors are a known causal factor through which poverty impacts developmental outcomes. As a natural convenor, Local Management Boards, bring together community stakeholders – government entities, public agencies, non-profits, and local citizens to address these concerns. To find what is working and what is not. And I think we can all agree, children living in poverty does not work.

During fiscal year 2024, St. Mary's County's Local Management Board voted to partner with St. Mary's County Department of Social Services in efforts to start a local chapter of Circles USA. Circles USA is a national evidence based program that supports families overcoming barriers as they move out of a culture of poverty and into a culture of prosperity. Through braided funding, this place based collaborative strategy has brought together community leaders from government, education, the nonprofit sector, businesses, and faith-based organizations utilizing collective impact strategies. Families, identified as Leaders, along with Community volunteers, identified as Allies, work together to navigate the complex social systems of care to get the individualized services they need to break the cycle of poverty. This is no easy task, but we believe this radical approach through community buy-in, intentional relationships, and a little Southern Maryland charm, this will work.

The St. Mary's County Local Management Board, along with the other 24 Boards in the State, understands the critical role of community voice in identifying needs but more importantly implementing appropriate strategies to address those needs. Every community has its unique needs. Local Management Boards are the through line for the ENOUGH Act. Behavioral and Mental Health, education, food security, housing, safety, and other issues

directly impact child poverty. Many of these topics have dedicated funding streams to support local efforts. The ENOUGH Act offers a unique opportunity to intentionally and strategically braid and blend these efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness. This initiative will only enhance what Local Management Boards have been doing for over thirty years.

We urge you to support the ENOUGH Act of 2024 to end child poverty in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Amanda K. Meatyard

Amanda K. Meatyard

St. Mary's County Local Management Board Coordinator

A. Masters Testimony ENOUGH Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrew Masters

Position: FAV



Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members. My name is Andrew Masters and I am here today on behalf of the United Way of Central Maryland. For nearly 100 years, United Way has been working across our region to meet the critical needs of individuals, households, and families. One of our keystone areas of work has been our efforts in neighborhoods.

This work aligns closely with the ENOUGH Act that the committee is considering. We at United Way of Central Maryland are for this bill and hope the committee gives it a favorable vote. The intergenerational, place-based approach that the ENOUGH Act supports aligns closely with our approach to community building and resident leadership. We support this bill and its aim to develop cross-sector partnerships. This approach recognizes the depth and breadth of complicated factors that families who battle poverty must overcome. These place-based strategies have been shown to be successful in other areas of our country and we look forward to supporting the ENOUGH Act making a difference here in Maryland.

A few years ago, United Way launched our Neighbors United initiative as a structured way to grow our neighborhood zones approach. Through this initiative, we partner with community organizations to support and strengthen the leadership capabilities of residents in neighborhoods like Severn, Lansdowne, Aberdeen, Columbia, and Mondawmin to address the upstream issues, or root causes, of the challenges residents face.

Our work in these communities has resulted in residents feeling more ownership over their communities and increased their sense of leadership and wellbeing. When residents partner with organizations like United Way, community-based organizations, governmental agencies, and other stakeholders, these communities see deep and lasting changes. Addressing these upstream issues is critical to ensuring that the work of these collaboratives results in community-wide impact.

Residents like Mr. Eric and Ms. Sandy have expressed that, because of Neighbors United, they feel they really have a voice and the power to make the changes they want to see in their communities. They are able to work with partners, talk to elected officials, and engage their neighbors to bring about the changes they want to see. In fact, Mr. Eric and other neighbors have formed a new organization called Man Up that is working towards nonprofit status as the result of this community power building. This summer, the community went over 100 days without a shooting, a major milestone for this neighborhood. They will remain focused on making the changes they want for their community now and in the future.

Thank you.

SB 482 - Maryland Food Bank - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Wallerstedt

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 482

**Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions,
Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 1, 2024**

Position: SUPPORT

Senate Bill 482 creates a competitive grant program that appropriates \$15 million to distribute to communities that have identified their own plan to address poverty by targeting root causes and generational challenges that perpetuate a cycle of poverty through closing gaps in sources of existing funding.

The Maryland Food Bank estimates that 1 in 3 Marylanders is at risk of food insecurity. A person who is food insecure does not have consistent access to healthy and nutritious food on any given day, and this problem persists in every area of the state. There are also communities and populations that are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, including communities of color, families with children, and older adults. The drivers of food insecurity are complex and often include additional factors such as low income, lack of reliable transportation, and access to healthcare.

To end food insecurity in Maryland, the root causes of hunger, including housing instability, lack of adequate healthcare access in communities, and limited transportation options, must be addressed. This new pot of money authorized by SB 482 will utilize place-based interventions in communities that suffer these problems and have high rates of child poverty to help break the generational cycle in the locations that need it most. These communities, like hunger, are not restricted by borders, and are found across the state – whether in urban, suburban, or rural areas. With around 2 million Marylanders forced to choose between putting food on the table and paying their bills, no one in these communities should be left behind.

Targeted, supplemental investments into communities with ongoing anti-poverty projects would be beneficial in reducing need in Maryland as inflation and rising food costs continue to impact everyday Marylanders. The Maryland Food Bank appreciates authorizing this new grant program that will allow local governments, nonprofits, and community organizations to continue and expand their work in poverty reduction and considers this bill a meaningful step towards eliminating the root causes of hunger.

For these reasons, the Maryland Food Bank respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 482.

ENOUGH Act Testimony- Baltimore Promise.pdf

Uploaded by: Ari Plaut

Position: FAV



Honorable Members of the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Bridget Blount, and I am honored to represent Baltimore's Promise, where I serve as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. Baltimore's Promise, the only StriveTogether Network member organization in Maryland, is a cradle to career collective impact organization dedicated to addressing inequitable outcomes for youth and families in the city of Baltimore. Today, I stand before you in unwavering support of Governor Wes Moore's ENOUGH Act, recognizing its potential to enact transformative change in our communities.

As an organization deeply committed to co-designing innovative solutions in partnership with youth and families, we firmly believe in using data to inform our efforts. The ENOUGH Act aligns with this commitment by emphasizing the importance of data driven strategies to address the root causes of inequity. By harnessing the power of data, including the lived experiences of our residents, we can identify and prioritize interventions that will have the most significant impact on improving outcomes for our youth and families.

Moreover, we commend the ENOUGH Act for its recognition that those closest to the issues are often best positioned to design effective solutions. Our organization has witnessed the power of community-led initiatives and understands that sustainable change requires the active involvement and leadership of the individuals who intimately understand the challenges faced by our communities. The ENOUGH Act's emphasis on community-driven solutions ensures that the voices of those directly impacted by inequities are not only heard but actively shape the policies that will affect their lives.

Investing in place-based strategies is a cornerstone of the ENOUGH Act, and we wholeheartedly endorse this approach. Place-based strategies acknowledge the unique challenges faced by different neighborhoods and communities within our city. By tailoring interventions to the specific needs of each area, we can foster localized solutions that address the root causes of inequity, leading to more comprehensive and sustainable improvements in city-wide outcomes.

The key components of the ENOUGH Act resonate with our organization, partners and community stakeholders for a variety of reasons:

Increase Community Health and Safety: The safety and well-being of our communities are paramount. By investing in community-based initiatives that address the root causes of violence and trauma, we can create safer neighborhoods where residents can thrive.

Provide "Cradle to Career" Access to High-Quality Education and Care: Education is the cornerstone of opportunity. By ensuring that all children have access to high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive support services all the way through to post-secondary



success, we can level the playing field and set our young people on the path to economic mobility from an early age.

Connect Residents to Quality Jobs and In-Demand Occupations: Economic opportunity is essential for building thriving communities. By investing in workforce development programs and initiatives that connect residents to quality jobs in growing industries, we can create pathways to prosperity for all Baltimoreans. We have seen this work with Grads2Careers, where young people in Baltimore are now earning \$10k more per year than when we launched this strategy.

Enable Family-Sustaining Income and Access to Affordable High-Quality Housing, Child Care, and Health Care: Families deserve access to the resources and support they need to thrive. By ensuring access to affordable housing, child care, and comprehensive health care services, including reproductive, maternal, behavioral, and mental health care, we can promote family stability and economic security.

Provide High-Quality Support for Children with Disabilities, Child Welfare, and Justice-Involved Youth and Young Adults: Every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances or system failures. By investing in high-quality support services for children with disabilities, child welfare, and justice-involved youth and young adults, we can ensure that all young people have the support they need to succeed.

In conclusion, I urge the Maryland House Appropriations Committee to wholeheartedly support Governor Wes Moore's ENOUGH Act. This legislation is a beacon of hope for our communities, offering a strategic, data-driven, and community-centered approach to dismantling systemic inequities. By investing in evidence-based solutions, empowering community voices, and embracing place-based strategies, we can collectively work towards a more just and equitable future for all Marylanders.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to building a brighter tomorrow. Together we can break the cycles of intergenerational poverty and create more inclusive and resilient communities where all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Bridget Blount

Bridget Blount
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Baltimore's Promise

ENOUGH Act testimony - Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Ayesha Holmes

Position: FAV



MARYLAND

SB482

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Chair Brian Feldman

Favorable

Share Our Strength
Ayesha B. Holmes, Director

**Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions,
Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony related to the establishment of the "Governor's Office for Children and the Enough Grant Program", known as the Enough Act of 2024. Share Our Strength (SOS), which operates No Kid Hungry-Maryland (NKH), is an organization that works on behalf of Marylanders to end childhood hunger and alleviate poverty. Share Our Strength believes strongly in the establishment of an entity such as the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) to manage and oversee the work of a Children's Cabinet, that includes representatives from each of the Child Serving Agencies.

We strongly believe that such a coordinating body can have positive outcomes for children and families and offer long-term poverty-ending solutions for Maryland families. Many federal initiatives that are currently not available will become open to Maryland, once the Children's Cabinet is reformed and activated.

The ENOUGH ACT of 2024 also will provide grant funding to local communities to spur action in the form of community driven strategies that are thoughtfully created to meet the needs of children, youth and families. These grants can strategically invest in communities that have long been forgotten and lift up opportunities for young people to thrive.

Finally, we hope that the ENOUGH ACT of 2024 will reinvigorate the Local Management Boards which, when appropriately supported and resourced, can provide valuable cross agency support to children with intensive needs through the Local Care Team. They can also be local ambassadors for the GOC at the local level. In areas of early childhood, youth achievement, and intensive needs, including physical, intellectual, and emotional disabilities.

As you move forward, we encourage a favorable report on the re-establishment of this important office to support cross-agency collaboration, strategic community investments, and improved outcomes for every child.

I can be reached at aholmes@Strength.org, and via phone at 410.971.7873, if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,
Ayesha B. Holmes
Director

SB482_ENOUGHAct_MHA LOS_2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Brian Sims

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 1, 2024

To: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 482. We thank the Governor for prioritizing long-term success for children in historically marginalized communities by focusing on their education and career opportunities. Investing now in targeted, meaningful ways can lay the groundwork to break intergenerational cycles of poverty, violence, and institutional neglect—conditions that can greatly impact the health and well-being of entire communities.

Social determinants of health are defined by the World Health Organization as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.¹ Up to 80% of health outcomes can be attributed to these factors. SB 482 establishes the Governor's Office for Children, which will fund interventions to keep children in school and set them up for success with career development pathways—undoing generations of inequities in our communities. The importance of this step cannot be understated. The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) “found direct evidence of success in reducing intergenerational poverty in policies and programs addressing five of the seven key drivers [of health]: education; child and maternal health; family income, employment, and wealth; housing and neighborhoods; and neighborhood crime and the criminal justice system.”² However, these interventions should not be treated as discrete categories. Social determinants of health are interrelated, thus investments in multiple domains have greater impact. We appreciate the Governor's acknowledgment of a comprehensive approach in defining the Office's scope of work.

These initiatives are also of particular importance for the health care workforce. Requirements for employment in both clinical and non-clinical hospital careers span from graduate-level education to certifications that can be obtained after completing high school. Maryland hospitals are facing the most critical staffing shortage in recent memory. These shortages in turn inhibit access to appropriate levels of care for individuals in underserved communities. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035.

¹ www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health

² [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#)



Maryland
Hospital Association

MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) recommends, among other things, removing barriers to education to expand and grow a diverse and talented workforce.³

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on SB 482.

For more information, please contact:
Brian Sims, Vice President, Quality & Equity
Bsims@mhaonline.org

³ [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#)

Purpose Built Communities - Favorable Testimony f

Uploaded by: Carol Naughton

Position: FAV

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Carol Naughton, CEO, Purpose Built Communities

Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482 / HB 694)

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee. My name is Carol Naughton and I'm the CEO of Purpose Built Communities, a nonprofit organization that works with local leaders nationwide to strengthen neighborhoods of concentrated poverty to become places with deep, durable pathways to prosperity for everyone who calls that neighborhood home.

Purpose Built Communities supports more than twenty-five neighborhood revitalization initiatives across the country, including one here in Maryland, in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore. We see tremendous opportunity in Maryland and the City of Baltimore and are excited to be part of the Governor's transformative effort to give those in underserved areas a pathway to a better life.

I am here today in support of the ENOUGH Act, a bill that would fundamentally reshape the state of Maryland's response to decades of underinvestment in low-income neighborhoods. But, before I speak on the ENOUGH Act, I'd like to provide some observations about my time as a nonprofit leader, working with communities that have been historically underinvested.

At Purpose Built Communities, we believe that neighborhoods are an important unit of change to dramatically increase upward economic mobility for those who have been left behind. Our neighborhood model fundamentally changes the conditions in which families and children live, work, play, and learn so that neighborhoods become healthy, sustainable, and aspirational, turning them into places that accelerate upward economic mobility.

One in eight Maryland children live in poverty, and 60,000 Maryland children live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty—where at least 30 percent of households live below the poverty line—conditions that are barriers to children and families being able to fulfill their potential. Safe and affordable housing is scarce, school systems are underfunded, and ongoing population loss weakens social cohesion.

These conditions prevent children and families from accessing the resources necessary for a person to succeed in the United States. And that can have lifelong consequences.

It is for these reasons that I stand in support of the ENOUGH Act. It is a bold proposal to end concentrated poverty in Maryland by encouraging a comprehensive, long-term, community-centered approach.

The ENOUGH Act will fund and assist the development of new neighborhood and regional place-based partnerships while strengthening existing ones through a competitive grant process. This grant program will support Maryland's children and young people through education opportunities and career readiness. Recognizing that neighborhoods are critical to improving economic mobility, the bill will boost families and communities by providing access to good

jobs, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and quality education and healthcare, including mental health services.

Through place-based initiatives, this legislation will target the root causes of hardship in communities – rural, suburban, and urban – that have disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty. Place-based initiatives take an evidence-based approach, looking at what children, families, and neighborhoods actually need and providing concrete improvements including affordable housing, education programs, family support, community development, and healthcare for those who need it most, changing the trajectory and outcomes for a child's future college and career success.

The ENOUGH Act will deploy a whole-of-government approach designed to give neighborhoods what they need to not just survive, but thrive. The strength of the ENOUGH Act is in its power to create critical infrastructure for place-based partnerships, expand access to resources to implement this work throughout Maryland, and set a national example for statewide action to improve economic mobility.

And notably, this bill is intentional about ensuring that the voices of those closest to the problem are centered in finding a solution. A key part of the ENOUGH Act entails working with community organizations, nonprofits, anchor institutions, community members, and other key stakeholders to develop locally focused, targeted plans of action to address poverty.

Reinvesting in neighborhoods and those living in them is central to Purpose Built Communities' mission and the ENOUGH Act. Our network members, including in Cherry Hill, are on the front lines of this issue and can tell you how important the ENOUGH Act would be to our efforts. Our network members have seen tremendous success, developing new mixed-income housing and opening new schools to serve thousands of kids. In neighborhoods where this work has had time to take root, graduation and income rates are up, and crime is down. With the ENOUGH Act, we would be able to partner with the state to deliver results faster and help the Governor deliver on his mission to end child poverty in Maryland.

Years of haphazard actions have left our cities and towns behind. Simply put, we can't afford another round of empty promises and half-measures. That's why I'm advocating for this bill: it will actually address these fundamental issues head-on. Simply adding programs is insufficient; we need a comprehensive approach to create the conditions for lifelong physical and mental health – the essential foundations for upward mobility.

Governor Moore is correct - when we uplift children and their neighborhoods, we can reinvigorate our communities. His mission is shared by Purpose Built Communities, where every day, our network members go to work in their communities on these same issues. With the resources that the ENOUGH Act provides, we can start to address root causes and heal wounds that have existed for decades.

Maryland has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lead on eliminating generational poverty. By passing the ENOUGH Act and ensuring its policies are fully implemented, Maryland can show the rest of the country that we can shift how we think about and approach poverty.

Thank you for your time, and I am proud to be here in support of this historic legislation.

SEIU Local 500 Testimony on ENOUGH Act Senate EEE.

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV

Testimony - SB 482, ENOUGH Act
Favorable
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
March 1, 2024
SEIU Local 500

Dear Chair Feldman and Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee:

We at SEIU Local 500 represent over 20,000 hardworking union members who serve the people in various roles from cradle to career. Many of our members come from working class backgrounds that began in the underserved communities the ENOUGH Act is meant to help. Living paycheck to paycheck is sadly a way of life in this nation, where many families cannot afford an emergency expense of a few hundred dollars. Systemic poverty is rampant in both urban and rural areas where outcomes in life can be correlated by zip code. These issues warrant action, and the ENOUGH Act is a good first step towards addressing them.

Time and time again neighborhood based solutions to address systemic issues are the best way to solve inequalities faced by our residents. The ENOUGH Act does much in making solutions as local as possible. We support these partnerships to solve major issues alongside local government, local schools, labor unions, nonprofits, small businesses, faith-based, and other community organizations. The ENOUGH Act aligns well with its goals of cradle to career education with the roles our members already provide in the community. Ensuring all children have access to high quality education and care will equip individuals, families, and communities for future success.

Establishing the Governor's Office for Children with the intent to ensure healthy and economically secure families through family-sustaining income and access to health care enables us to support families holistically. We know that child poverty does not just affect children. To thrive, families need access to high quality health care, including reproductive, maternal, behavioral, and mental health care, and healthy, nutritious food. At the same time, providing critical income supports and connecting workers to quality jobs and in-demand occupations builds pathways to opportunity, stable families, thriving communities and ultimately a stronger economy across the state.

Communities initiatives that meet the needs and tap into opportunities in their neighborhood, including violence intervention programs, increased access to safe affordable housing, improved public spaces including parks and community gathering spaces, and economic development programs designed to bring good jobs to the community and support locally-owned businesses and entrepreneurs to meet neighborhood needs can be funded through grants set forth in this historic legislation. The rebuilding of neighborhood infrastructure with additional support for children and families should go far in eradicating the causes of poverty.

We would like to thank Governor Wes Moore, the leadership of the General Assembly, and you the members of this esteemed body for supporting and adopting the ENOUGH Act into law. With your support, we can begin to build a Maryland where every child has an equal opportunity for success, no longer hampered by the circumstances of their zip code.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs
On Behalf of SEIU Local 500

SB0482...Moore.pdf

Uploaded by: Connie Moore

Position: FAV

Connie Moore, M.Ed., C.A.F.E.
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SB0482 Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment
Enough Act 2024
Governor's Office for Children

March 1, 2024

Good Morning,

This testimony concerns the Enough Act 2024 Governor's Office for Children

We ask for a Favorable Report.

I represent DRINK AT THE WELL in Curtis Bay, MD. We help women survivors rise out of poverty which results in impacts on their children's lives. The Enough Act is critical to our neighborhood. I am personally acquainted with loss of my immediate family and my finances under devastating circumstances.

The Women at The Well are survivors of generational poverty and the trauma that flows from it. Almost all of their friends have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse, have been forced into sex work and some have survived trafficking. Many struggle with addiction. Most are mothers who very much want a better life for their children.

Curtis Bay, a South Baltimore neighborhood that is adjacent to Brooklyn and Cherry Hill. Neighborhood Scout ranks South Baltimore 1 out of 100 most violent neighborhoods in America (100 being the safest). There is a 36% unemployment rate, 6 Active Gangs in Brooklyn/Curtis Bay, and routine drug and sex trafficking. 32% of families and 51% of children in Curtis Bay live in poverty. (source: BNIA Neighborhood Vital signs) while 69% of the children in the community are being raised in single-parent homes. Children in single family homes are 5x as likely to live below the poverty line.

HON'S Honey is our social enterprise, dedicated to giving dignity and purpose to women survivors. Research reveals that Business, Economics and Finance are vital skills for communities who desire to lift their children out of poverty.

If given the opportunity and resources, Drink at the Well will impact the next generation with these vital skillsets.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Connie Moore M.Ed., C.A.F.E.

Resources

Gray Group International 2024, *Gray group international website*, Blog, poverty reduction, accessed February 17, 2024, <https://www.graygroupintl.com/blog/poverty-reduction>.

Plan International Canada, Inc. 2024, *Plan international canada website*, 5 ways to end poverty, accessed February 17, 2024, <https://plancanada.ca/stories/5-ways-to-end-poverty>.

Social Finance, Inc. 2024, *SoFi website*, Tips for overcoming situational poverty, accessed February 17, 2024, [Tips for Overcoming Situational Poverty - SoFi](#).

SB 482_ENOUGH Act_BHSB_FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Dan Rabbitt

Position: FAV



March 1, 2024

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

SB 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the local behavioral health authority (LBHA) for Baltimore City. BHSB works to increase access to a full range of quality behavioral health (mental health and substance use) services and advocates for innovative approaches to prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery for individuals, families, and communities. Baltimore City represents nearly 35 percent of the public behavioral health system in Maryland, serving over 100,000 people with mental illness and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as “behavioral health”) annually.

Behavioral Health System Baltimore supports SB 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024). The ENOUGH Act will provide flexible funding to support targeted initiatives to alleviate challenges faced by low-income children, youth, and families. Many behavioral health challenges can be addressed or prevented through early interventions and supports during childhood. BHSB supports these efforts and appreciates the Administration’s pursuit of a Maryland where no child grows up in poverty.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and social determinants of health have a tremendous impact on the mental health and well-being of children. Witnessing violence or the untreated behavioral health problems of a caregiver can have a lasting and life-long effect on a young person. ACEs can lead to poor physical health, the development of behavioral health challenges, engaging in risky behaviors, and even premature death.¹ Investments made to alleviate the conditions that lead to ACEs will pay dividends over time.

ENOUGH Act grants can provide income support, education programs, access to health and behavioral health care, affordable housing, employment programs, and support to children with disabilities, child welfare, and justice-involved youth and young adults. These services can interrupt cycles of poverty, prevent ACEs, and ultimately be the difference in a child’s life.

The place-based strategies to address child poverty of the ENOUGH Act will not only reduce poverty but also improve the behavioral health of children, youth, and families. **BHSB urges the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to support SB 482.**

For more information, please contact BHSB Policy Director Dan Rabbitt at 443-401-6142

References:

¹ V Felitti, R Anda, D Nordenberg, V Edwards, M Koss, J Marks, et al. “Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study.” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. Vol 14, Issue 4 (1998): 245-258. Available at [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(98\)00017-8/fulltext](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(98)00017-8/fulltext).

SB0482 Written Testimony (DSCI).pdf

Uploaded by: Darron Monteiro

Position: FAV

SB0482– Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

FAV

Paul Monteiro (Secretary)
Department of Service and Civic Innovation
45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

The Department of Service and Civic Innovation supports a favorable report on SB0482– Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024) and the establishment of the Governor's Office for Children.

Senate Bill 0482's ENOUGH Grant Program aligns with the work of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation as it seeks to connect residents to quality jobs and in-demand occupations to target child poverty as one of its aims. As our programs work to provide Marylanders with opportunities to serve their communities while earning a living wage, the ENOUGH Grant Program provides support for strategies to improve outcomes within communities by empowering communities in need with grant support.

The bill, as drafted, provides an opportunity to align investments that could help the ENOUGH Act achieve its goals. As our programs expand and grow each year, the ENOUGH Grant Program may position communities who receive an ENOUGH Act award to concurrently work with DSCI to create new sites for service in communities by Maryland Corps/Service Year Option Members. We are confident ENOUGH Act award recipients, who have the capacity, could manage DSCI resources to advance complementary community solutions through service and civic engagement.

Additionally, as our Secretary is part of the Children's Cabinet, we are in alignment with the Governor's vision for the Office for Children as the home for the ENOUGH Grant Program.

DSCI respectfully requests that you consider this written testimony of support as you deliberate SB0482– Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024) and the establishment of the Governor's Office for Children.

SB482 ENOUGH Act Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Demaune Millard

Position: FAV



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 482

Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

To: Chair Brian Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

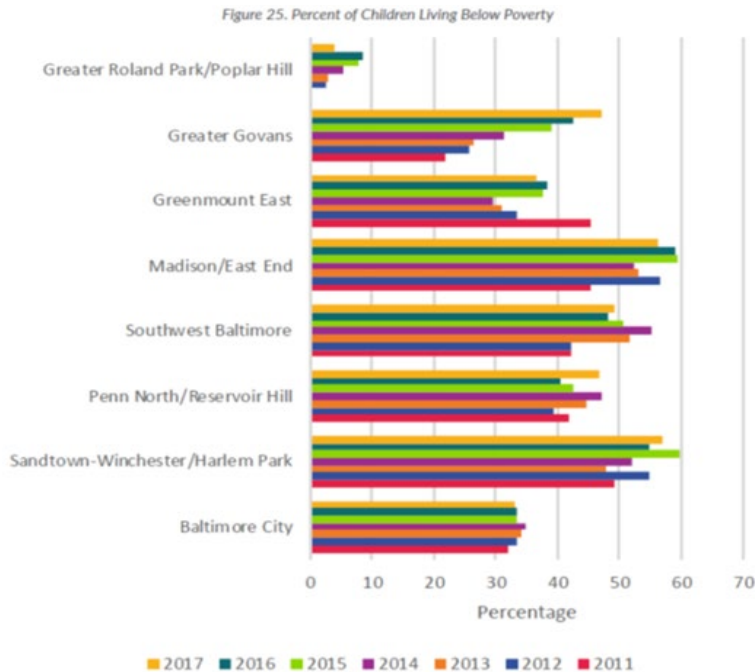
From: Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore

Date: March 1, 2024

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) supports Senate Bill 482 as it possesses an intentional focus on building the intersection between community impact and reducing child poverty by addressing systemic barriers. SB 482 creates an additional opportunity for human capital investment in support of improving outcomes for children and families, while laying the foundation to address critical gaps in infrastructure at the community level. If passed, this bill will also harness the power of community impact from early childcare and education to affordable housing, and public safety.

As the LMB (Local Management Board) for the City of Baltimore, our bold goal is to be powered by and in partnership with community, we will address inequities in education, health, and economic opportunity through an anti-racist lens to ensure that positive outcomes can be a reality for all Baltimoreans. To ensure the sustainability of programs in impacted communities, adequate funding is crucial. This funding represents a direct investment in communities experiencing multi-generational poverty and its repercussions. In collaboration with Morgan State University's School of Community Health and Policy, a Community Health Needs Assessment in 2019, that studied the issues of the community through a health equity lens. This research revealed that childhood poverty rates in Baltimore had been stable at 33%, though there had been a slightly positive trend over the last three years prior.

Below is a representation of the communities in Baltimore Children living below poverty:ⁱ



Investment in capacity building for local program providers not only enhances the agency of community voice, but it will provide residents with opportunities to overcome systemic barriers by data-informed collaboration. The ENOUGH Act would support cradle-to-career investments in youth and families, an approach that would yield social and economic dividends for the City of Baltimore.

As the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore, Family League works collaboratively to support data-informed, community-driven solutions to align resources to dismantle systemic barriers that limit the possibilities for children, families, and communities. Our policy focus is also guided by and in support of the Governor’s Office of Children Results for Child Well-Being. Through our strategic planning process, we have prioritized three of these results areas, focusing on the success of Baltimore’s children in school; the economic stability of families; and the safety of communities for children, youth, and families. We support SB482 in particular because of its alignment with the result areas that work to ensure “Families are Safe and Economically Stable.”

For more information contact Keontae Kells, Executive Administrator kkells@familyleague.org

ⁱ Description: This indicator measures the percentage of persons under the age of 18 living in households where the total income fell below the poverty threshold out of all children in households in an area. Federal and state governments use such estimates to allocate funds to

local communities. Local communities use these estimates to identify the number of individuals or families eligible for various programs. Community Health Needs Assessment – Morgan State University & Family League of Baltimore

SB0482-EEE_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 482

*Governor's Office for Children – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program
(ENOUGH Act of 2024)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
and Budget and Taxation Committees

Date: March 1, 2024

From: Sarah Sample and Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 482. This bill re-establishes the Governor's Office for Children as well as the grant fund to advance place-based strategies for combating child poverty across Maryland.

Local government agencies are an integral partner in working to end child poverty across the state. Schools, local management boards, health departments, social service teams, and law enforcement agencies all play a crucial role in combating food, housing, and financial insecurity for residents, particularly children and their families. Hunger, homelessness, and lack of healthcare access are adversely correlated with educational outcomes, job readiness, and economic opportunity. The conditions of SB 482 further enable local governments to aid in the effort to break this cycle of poverty for families in need.

Reestablishing the Governor's Office for Children begets a universal coordinating strategy that will serve as the pivot point for funding across multiple agencies throughout the state. This allows for a holistic, organized approach within State government and across public and private sectors at the federal, state, and local levels. Provisions of the bill enable local agencies to receive funding as well as perform a variety of functions within the matrix of programs across the child service continuum.

A comprehensive and efficient network of supports for children and their families will assist local jurisdictions in combating the adverse effects of resource scarcity for children and their families in order to promote social and emotional well-being for all. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 482.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0482.pdf

Uploaded by: Elisabeth Sachs

Position: FAV

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive



JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **SB 482**

TITLE: Governor’s Office for Children – Engaging Neighborhoods,
Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households
(ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 1, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 482 – Governor’s Office for Children – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024). This legislation would create the Governor’s Office for Children and establish the ENOUGH Grant Program to increase community health and safety with an emphasis on access to quality education, jobs, housing and health care and support for youth and children.

Baltimore County supports this legislation because we already using this model across the county. We have launched a nearly identical place-based pilot in the community of Essex, as well as two other communities, using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. A state grant program like ENOUGH would potentially allow Baltimore County to sustain our early success and encourage similar initiatives in vulnerable communities across the state.

In 2021, County Executive Olszewski made the strategic decision to target \$3 million of the county’s ARPA dollars to revitalize Essex - a once thriving middle class area in eastern Baltimore County - through multiple layers of improvements and interventions.

Essex was chosen as the pilot site for a number of reasons. Through the County’s BCSTAT data-driven management initiative, the Essex community was consistently flagged across multiple health and safety data points and indices of social vulnerability. Analyses and heat mapping showed low family income, food deserts, high levels of public assistance, increasing use of housing vouchers, high rates of opioid overdoses and other indicators of health and income disparities.

In 2021 Essex Reimagined was born – a multi-department, place-based, community-oriented revitalization and recovery initiative in the Essex community.

With a broad mission of improving quality of life, Essex Reimagined focuses on enhanced safety, improved health and expanded opportunity and equity. The initiative seeks transformative change through coordinated planning, partnership and the dedicated resources needed to empower residents and address social and economic disparities. We have been able to augment the initial ARPA investment by braiding together several million dollars in other funding.

The programs within the Essex Reimagined initiative are diverse, ranging from distributing trash carts with attached lids to households in neighborhoods with chronic trash and rodent related complaints to incubating a local community development corporation.

The interventions and partnerships include:

- Partnering with and supporting the [Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce](#) efforts to establish the Essex Community Development Corporation and revitalize the much-needed business community on the Eastern Avenue corridor;
- Engaging in partnership with [Roca Baltimore](#), a youth violence intervention program now in Essex, to aid in the reduction of juvenile crime;
- Providing [high-quality trash carts](#) for a cleaner community;
- Increasing [food program support](#) in the community at the Eastpoint and Franklin Square Hospital's FoodRx program;
- Partnering with the Community Assistance Network to augment their food pantry and case management services;
- Providing [streetscaping and roadway improvements](#) on the Eastern Boulevard business corridor as well as support for planning and design for a multi-year bridge and sidewalk project;
- Increasing safety on Eastern Avenue by support of the Lighting and Camera Business Installation Project;
- With the [Ripken Foundation](#), supporting the first Baltimore County project to install a turf field at Renaissance Park;
- Funding the Hiring of a Domestic Violence Specialist at the Department of Health and Human Services and a social worker at the Essex Library; and
- Partnering with the Essex [Chesapeake Feeder Pattern Community Schools](#) on the 2023 Community Connections Fair to bring health and community resources into the community. The second annual fair is scheduled for 202

Essex Reimagined is partnering with local anchors like the Community College of Baltimore County and Medstar Health and engaging multiple county departments from Baltimore County Public Libraries and Baltimore County Public Schools to Health and Human Services, Recreation and Parks and Housing and Community Development.

All of this work is anchored in community engagement including:

- Ongoing community input surveys, including in Spanish, to gauge public priorities and perception;

- community empowerment efforts to assist residents in organizing neighborhood advocacy groups; and
- tabling at public events and establishing a regular presence at community meetings.

As required under ARPA, we have developed metrics to measure success. For example, we collect data from proactive code enforcement sweeps, rat bait traps and twice weekly trash pick up. Preliminary data shows that trash volume is up and code enforcement citations are down as are 311 calls for code violations.

While Essex Reimagined was our flagship initiative, we have already expanded this place-based strategy to two other struggling communities: Historic Dundalk Town Center in the Southeast and Woodlawn Village on the westside using additional ARPA dollars.

In Dundalk Village, the initial project is reimagining Veterans Park, an urban park in the middle of the historic shopping center. We chose this park as the centerpiece in response to chronic community complaints about the condition of the park and lack of positive community-oriented activity. We are leading a community-driven process to uplift the park and the surrounding shopping center and adjacent neighborhoods. Like Essex we started with basic community concerns – like blight and trash – with the intention of investing in other neighborhood initiatives. We are also coordinating with community institutions – the Dundalk YMCA, Dundalk Elementary and several adjacent community associations - to organize clean ups, programming and community events in and around the park.

In Woodlawn we have focused on Woodlawn Village, near historic Gwynn Oak park, with a commercial core in need of investment. We are working with the local business association and several community associations to revitalize the area. The main project to date, in response to community concerns, is to support local small businesses and create more economic opportunity for surrounding community members. The Woodlawn Village place-based initiative is one of several related projects taking place on westside of the county – including the start up of the West Baltimore County Redevelopment Authority, the reimagining of Security Square Mall and the launch of the Liberty Road Community Development Organization. All of these projects are deeply connected to community organizations and reflect local interests and include ongoing engagement. They are well-positioned to be part of a regional or neighborhood partnership that would potentially benefit from this program.

The ENOUGH Grant Program embraces what we are doing in the county in multiple ways:

- promoting place-based partnership;
- fostering ground-up coordination;
- building local organizational capacity and
- targeting funding to address specific communities’ specific needs, across multiple dimensions – human services, job training, physical infrastructure, property upkeep, health and safety.

Baltimore County is seeing early success in revitalizing struggling communities and setting up residents for success through this model.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 482 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

MD4CS_MOST_MEC_SB482.pdf

Uploaded by: Ellie Mitchell

Position: FAV



**Senate Bill 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods,
Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program
(ENOUGH Act of 2024)**

March 1, 2024, 9 a.m. -Education, Energy and the Environment

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland. The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) advocates for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide.

MOST and MD4CS enthusiastically support Senate Bill 482 and applaud the return of the Governor's Office of Children as a distinct agency and its focus on ending childhood poverty. Maryland needs to reemphasize cross-agency collaboration and state and local systems building to build more sustainable and healthy communities where children and families thrive.

The Enough Act of 2024 also creates a new grant program that invests in neighborhood and regional place-based initiatives. Promise Neighborhoods, a similar grant program at the federal level, provides models and lessons learned for Maryland's ENOUGH initiative. Successful initiatives will connect and leverage the rich ecosystem of community-based youth serving organizations. We know expanded learning programs, community schools and youth development approaches will be central to providing comprehensive services and building relationships with youth and families.

We hope this initial strategic fifteen-million-dollar investment will grow, the new GOC and reinvigorated children's cabinet will build quality systems for coordinated delivery, and we will see the tide turn for children and their families in Maryland. We urge a favorable report for Senate Bill 482.

Rick Tyle, Co-Chair, Maryland Education Coalition, md.ed.coalition@gmail.com
Ellie Mitchell, & Executive Director, MOST Network/MD4CS, emitchell@mostnetwork.org

Maryland Out of School Time Network / Maryland Coalition for Community Schools

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SB482_ENOUGH Act_KennedyKrieger_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Arneson

Position: FAV



Kennedy Krieger Institute

DATE: March 1, 2024 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy, Environment
BILL NO: Senate Bill 482
BILL TITLE: Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports the Senate Bill 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024).

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 482 would establish the Governor's Office for Children and the ENOUGH Grant program. The purpose of ENOUGH grant awards is to increase community health and safety; provide access to high-quality education and care; connect residents to quality jobs and in-demand occupations; and provide high-quality support for children with disabilities, child welfare and justice involved youth and young adults.

Background:

Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive, and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based, and community-based programs. Over 27,000 individuals receive services annually at Kennedy Krieger.

The vision for the Office for Health Equity Inclusion and Diversity (O-HEID) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is to promote the health and well-being of those who work and receive training and services at Kennedy Krieger Institute. The O-HEID uses evidence, culturally relevant, and equity-based approaches that assures diversity and inclusion. The O-HEID is working to establish collaboration, data, and metrics to address remediable disparities within our patient populations, policies, and practices.

Rationale:

While 1 out of 8 children are living in poverty in Maryland, over a third of children in Baltimore City are affected and the numbers are rising.¹ Additionally, over half of students in Maryland's public schools qualify for free and reduced-priced meals.² Generally, children who live in areas of higher neighborhood deprivation live further away from pediatric hospitals.³ However, despite being located amongst some of the most prestigious medical facilities in the country, Baltimore City has one of the highest areas of deprivation in the state.⁴

Neighborhood deprivation is often associated with many issues affecting children including housing instability, childcare, and transportation.⁵ Neighborhood deprivation has also been associated with several types of health factors, including asthma,⁶ hearing loss,⁷ blood lead levels,⁸ body-mass index,⁹ severe COVID-19 infection,¹⁰ hospital re-admissions,¹¹ and developmental factors such as cognitive skills¹² and academic achievement.¹³ Our own Maryland high school youth living in areas of higher neighborhood deprivation have been found to have an increased likelihood of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as food insecurity, abuse, parental mental illness, parental substance abuse, or having a family member in jail or prison. Youth from Black, Hispanic/Latinx, or sexual and gender minority (SGM) backgrounds are most at risk.¹⁴

Growing up in poverty is a significant threat to healthy child development and increases the risk of poor academic, cognitive, and other health outcomes for children. As such, it is critical to address social determinants of health including economic, educational, and community environments in a targeted manner to break the

cycle of intergenerational poverty that is negatively affecting children across our state. We strongly believe that investing in Maryland's children will pay off in dividends and will truly unlock every child's potential.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 482.

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707 North Broadway Baltimore, Maryland 21205

GRACE:ECPCA ENOUGH ACT (SB 482) Testimony Letter.p

Uploaded by: Emmerald Evans

Position: FAV



Thursday, February 29th, 2024

To: Maryland Senate, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482)

From: GRACE/End Child Poverty California

Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482)

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shimica Gaskins and on behalf of GRACE/End Child Poverty California, we write in support of the ENOUGH Act (SB 482).

Founded by the Daughters of Charity, who have been working in California since 1852, GRACE and the End Child Poverty in California (ECPCA) Campaign strives to address the needs of those living in poverty and dares to imagine a liberated future, free from systemic racism and poverty, in which all children experience a childhood of abundance, dignity, love, and opportunities to thrive. The End Child Poverty in California campaign is a growing coalition of 178 anti-poverty organizations, allies, and advocates fighting for the resources and strategies to ensure ALL children can be healthy, housed and fed. where we vision a liberated future, free from systemic racism and poverty, in which all children experience childhoods of abundance, dignity, love, and opportunities to thrive.

For far too long generational cycles of poverty and lack of opportunity have held back Maryland children and families from the serenity of the eastern shore to the soaring western mountains. That is why GRACE/End Child Poverty California is proud to support the ENOUGH Act, legislation reimagining how the State of Maryland uplifts children and families and gives those in underserved or under-resourced areas a chance to better their situation.

The ENOUGH Act will fund and assist the development of new neighborhood and regional place-based partnerships while strengthening existing ones through a competitive grant process administered by the Governor's Office for Children. This grant program will support Maryland's children and young people through education opportunities and career readiness. Additionally, the bill will boost families and communities by providing access to good jobs, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and quality healthcare, including mental health services.

Through place-based initiatives, this legislation will target the root causes of hardship in communities – rural, suburban, and urban – that have disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty. Place-based initiatives take an evidence-based approach, looking at what children, families, and neighborhoods actually need, and providing concrete social services like education programs, family support, community development, and healthcare for those who need it most, changing the trajectory and outcomes for a child's future college and career success.

Maryland has a strong track record of supporting education projects, including complementary initiatives like the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Passed in 2021, the Blueprint increases education funding to accelerate student outcomes and improve the quality of the state's schools. The ENOUGH Act takes this one step further, deploying a whole-of-community approach, designed to give communities the support and resources needed to uplift children and families, and ultimately combat poverty. The strength of the ENOUGH Act is that it will create critical infrastructure for place-based partnerships, expand access to resources to implement this work throughout Maryland, and set a national example for statewide investments in economic mobility. Furthermore, the ENOUGH Act will align and leverage cross-sector community partners for the equitable distribution of services for children and families; promote systems change by funding and advocating for programs and policy changes across the state; and collect, assess, and share data by working with partner organizations and communities to identify the needs within neighborhoods, implement evidence-based solutions, and use data to continuously improve programs.

And notably, this bill is intentional about ensuring that the voices of those closest to the problem are centered in finding a solution. A key part of the ENOUGH Act entails working with community organizations, non-profits, anchor institutions, and other key community members to develop locally-focused, targeted plans of action to address poverty.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically support the ENOUGH Act and believe it will be a national example for states around the country in the fight against child poverty. Maryland is already the proud home to many businesses and has one of the best hospital networks in the nation. The infrastructure exists for them to be successful and when combined with additional outside funding, can be a model for the nation.

We know that a child's ability to access opportunities that allow for social and economic mobility is contingent on them growing up in strong and supportive homes in thriving communities. The ENOUGH Act is the kind of all-hands-on-deck, whole-of-government approach that is critical to transforming communities and building a future where no child's potential is limited by their zip code. Through the ENOUGH Act, Maryland will invest in local and regional place-based networks that are equity focused, data-driven, and have the capacity to identify the highest needs within the most under-resourced neighborhoods.

By passing this legislation, we will unlock the promise of all Maryland children, placing them on a path to academic success while also strengthening families, fostering community engagement, and instilling civic pride.

GRACE/End Child Poverty California urges the passage of the ENOUGH Act and is grateful for the opportunity to express our strong approval of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shimica Gaskins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Shimica Gaskins
President and CEO

GRACE/End Child Poverty CA
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WJWI Written Testimony for ENOUGH Act_Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Fritz Bondoa

Position: FAV



At Harlem Children's Zone

35 East 125th Street
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hcz.org

February 29, 2024

To: Maryland Senate, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Geoffrey Canada, Founder and President of the Harlem Children's Zone and Founder of the William Julius Wilson Institute

Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482)

My name is Geoffrey Canada and I am the Founder and President of the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) and Founder of the William Julius Wilson Institute (WJW Institute). HCZ breaks the cycle of intergenerational poverty with on-the-ground, all-around programming that builds up opportunities for children and families to thrive in school, work, and life. WJW Institute at HCZ is the leading authority on and resource for place-based, people-focused solutions that close opportunity gaps nationwide.

In the heart of communities across Maryland, from the shores of the Choptank to the bustling streets of Baltimore to the nation's capital gateway in Prince George's, there lies the untapped potential of Maryland's youngest citizens, shadowed by the pervasive reach of [poverty](#). Many decades ago, I grew up in a neighborhood where poverty was a relentless force shaping every aspect of life, and today many of Maryland's children still face those same barriers.

Last month, Governor Wes Moore unveiled the [ENOUGH Act](#), proposing a first-of-its-kind, state-led response to the profound challenge of poverty. Nearly 190,000 [Maryland children live in poverty](#), a number that has only grown since 2019. Fifty-four percent of young children (ages 3-4) are not in school and nearly half of Maryland renters are burdened with [rising rents](#), spending over 30% of income on housing. Forcing families to make decisions around paying rent, groceries or childcare, all these issues combined sharply underscores the urgent need for action.

Maryland has already laid the foundation: the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is a landmark step taken by the legislature, unapologetically prioritizing equity and aiming to eradicate achievement gaps in education. By investing over \$3.8 billion over the next decade, the Blueprint focuses on the holistic development of Maryland's children inside the school building, including historic investments in the spaces where children learn. The ENOUGH Act takes the next crucial step by building on the visionary Blueprint to extend beyond the classroom. The stark reality is efforts solely focused on schools, while absolutely necessary, are not enough to dismantle the generational cycles of poverty that ensnare children.

We know first-hand from our work at Harlem Children's Zone, that the environments in which children grow, live, and play are as crucial to their success as their quality of education. Neighborhood-based initiatives, like the ENOUGH Act, are focused on children and families in specific high-need locations and offer a spectrum of support services including; behavioral and mental health, family supports, community development projects, healthcare, and job opportunities - all fostering an ecosystem where children can flourish. Central to neighborhood-based initiatives, and where the bulk of the ENOUGH Act's \$15 million would be allocated, is the coordination of existing services and funding streams into



At Harlem Children's Zone

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efficient, integrated systems of care that ensure that children show up at school ready to learn. The ENOUGH Act can serve as the lynchpin tying together and accelerating the state's prior investments to create upwardly mobile neighborhoods, where children and families can access the critical services to thrive.

By investing in Maryland's future through this targeted approach, there is potential to draw in private and philanthropic funding to double or triple the State investment. This would provide a pool of resources for combating poverty, and a sustainable model for economic renewal. By fostering public-private partnerships, the ENOUGH Act not only broadens the scope of available resources but also interjects innovation and true collaboration into this fight. To be clear, this type of philanthropic capital aggregation is already happening in cities and states big and small.

Throughout my travels in Maryland, and talks with lawmakers in Annapolis, I have been profoundly inspired. These conversations reveal a vivid picture of the resilience and potential engrained in Maryland communities. I am a champion of this approach because we have seen it work across 97 square blocks of central Harlem, NY, in Dayton, OH, and rural communities like Berea, KY. The principles of empowering communities and ensuring every child has the chance to succeed are universal.

I dedicated my life to breaking the cycle of poverty in underserved communities, the ENOUGH Act is a beacon of hope and promise. It is not just the responsibility of policymakers but a rallying cry for all—business leaders, philanthropists, educators, and citizens—to come together in support of a brighter future for Maryland's children. Helping them reach their full potential, [expand future earnings](#), and save taxpayers money by not having to invest in future costs of prolonged poverty. This is an invitation to reshape the state's approach to intergenerational poverty.

Maryland has the opportunity to lead by example, showing the nation that with courage, conviction, and collaboration, we can transform the lives of our children and the communities where they live. Let Maryland lead the way in committing to uplift every child to their full promise and potential. The call to action is clear, and the nation is watching.

The William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone urges the passage of the ENOUGH Act and is grateful for the opportunity to express our strong approval of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Geoffrey Canada,
Founder and President, Harlem Children's Zone
Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute at HCZ

MD Catholic Conference_SB 482_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE**

March 1, 2024

SB 482

Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

**Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill 482. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 482, the ENOUGH Act, would direct fiscal resources to the most in-need Maryland communities for community organizations, nonprofits, faith-based organizations and others to together develop action plans to address local poverty. This legislation fosters solidarity by bringing together diverse stakeholders to work toward a common goal of alleviating poverty.

This legislation emphasizes the importance of justice in addressing systemic issues that perpetuate poverty. By engaging community organizations and other key stakeholders, the legislation seeks to address root causes of poverty and promote lasting change in our communities.

This legislation also provides an opportunity for Catholic parishes and nonprofits to collaborate with other community stakeholders, leveraging their resources and expertise to develop innovative solutions to poverty in their own communities. The Church has been a longstanding partner with the State of Maryland in combatting poverty and the Church relishes the opportunity to further partner with the state in this important mission.

The preferential option for the poor and vulnerable is a foremost pillar of Catholic social teaching. The Church strongly supports the continuation of anti-poverty programs that address the basic needs of its poorest individuals and families, including those tackling food insecurity, affordable housing, and unemployment. In his address on the Second World Day of the Poor (2018), Pope Francis clearly illustrated this importance in stating how "we are called to honour

the poor and to give them precedence, out of the conviction that they are a true presence of Jesus in our midst. ‘As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’”

The collaborative approach to fighting poverty embodied in Senate Bill 482 reflects the Catholic belief in the interconnectedness of all people and the responsibility to care for the marginalized and vulnerable members of society. Thus, we request a favorable report on Senate Bill 482.

ENOUGH TestimonySB482H. Stevens.pdf

Uploaded by: Heidi Stevens

Position: FAV

Good afternoon, Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

I'm Heidi Stevens, the Poppleton Neighborhood Zone and Community Schools Director for the United Way of Central Maryland. I am here on behalf of the United Way to support the ENOUGH Act SB 482 and to give you reasons why you should support it.

I jumped at the opportunity to testify today because I've seen how communities that join together and focus on their individual, collective, and unique strengths can bring about fundamental transformation.

So many times, communities struggle because of a lack of resources and disinvestment and because people who live and work in that community lose hope. They work in silos trying to move generational challenges designed to get the results we see now. People become frustrated, some move away, and others resign to the fact that what they see will always be.

In the Poppleton neighborhood of Southwest Baltimore, community organizations, faith leaders, community members, community schools, and strategic partners used to work in silos. Now, we've formed a collaboration designed to share stakeholder resources and strengths; we have healthy and productive discussions about moving the needle forward in Poppleton regarding housing, jobs, mental health, and safe neighborhoods.

ENOUGH will allow communities to start from a position of strength as stakeholders work together to discover what's needed in their communities and work on solutions that bring lasting change. The United Way of Central Maryland stands on the side of the communities and families we serve. We look to a favorable outcome.

Thank you for your time!

SB 482, FAV, FCG, OCE, JF, LS24.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FAV



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 482 – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

DATE: March 1, 2024
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater


As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 482 – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024) a favorable report.

This bill will establish the Governor's Office for Children and provide a pathway to addressing child poverty at the local level using place-based strategies.

Currently, the State of Maryland has a profound need for an office with the purpose of pulling our children out of poverty in a meaningful and effective way. This bill will provide local nonprofits, school systems, and other agencies like Local Management Boards with grants to work towards solving this problem. State, local, and private partnership are crucial to large-scale issues such as child poverty. By providing a pathway to deal with this crisis, the State is showing a commitment to ensuring all children and families have the ability to enjoy a higher quality of life.

SB 482 is vital to strengthening State and local partnerships to help our most vulnerable populations. By providing \$15 million dollars to local organizations and governments in areas where child poverty is high, the State is being proactive in preventing children from falling further into poverty and lifting those who are currently experiencing poverty out. This bill will assist Frederick County by providing grant funding for three of Frederick County's FY24-26 Community Plan priorities, Families are Economically Stable, Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families, and Children Enter School Ready to Learn. This bill also has the potential to provide funding for our Local Care Team which focuses on connecting families who have children and youth with disabilities and/or severe behavioral health challenges to resources and services to keep them safe and healthy within the community. Finally, this bill will assist with the potential solutions created from the recommendations within our Child Care Market Study that is currently underway. SB 482 is crucial to addressing childhood poverty within Frederick County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 482. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD

SB 482.ENOUGH Neighborhoods in Poverty Grant Progr

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FAV

BILL: Senate Bill 482
TITLE: Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)
DATE: March 1, 2024
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Budget and Taxation
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 482 in order to develop and fund coordinated efforts to address the needs of communities experiencing concentrated poverty. MABE supports establishing the “Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program” as a bold and innovative approach to improving conditions for families and their children, many of whom are public school students, in communities most heavily impacted by poverty.

MABE supports the ENOUGH program as a major initiative of Governor Wes Moore aligned with the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and more specifically the Blueprint’s investment in the successful development of community schools. According to the Moore Administration, “The ENOUGH Act uses place-based interventions in communities with disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty – rural, suburban and urban. Communities that show an ability to assess existing pathways to success, coordinate across sectors, and address challenges strategically and in a holistic manner can apply for competitive grant funding of up to \$10 million per year. The program will be run through the Governor’s Office of Children.”

MABE, on behalf of all local boards, strongly supports the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and its vision for a world-class public education system for all students. The Blueprint provides significant funding to support the planning and operation of community schools in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty. The Blueprint law defines a community school as a public school that establishes a set of strategic partnerships between the school and other community resources that promote student achievement, positive learning conditions, and the well-being of students, families, and the community by providing wraparound services. Therefore, MABE also supports the community-based improvements facilitated and funded through the ENOUGH program. Local School systems look forward to working with the Governor’s Office for Children and other partners toward achieving the program’s goals to target childhood poverty.

Again, under the Blueprint local school systems are operating many community schools and responsible for coordinating wraparound services for students and their families. The Blueprint law defines wraparound services, as follows:

“Wraparound services” means:

- (1) Extended learning time, including before and after school, weekends, summer school, and an extended school year;
- (2) Safe transportation to and from school and off-site apprenticeship programs;
- (3) Vision and dental care services;

- (4) Establishing or expanding school–based health center services;
- (5) Additional social workers, mentors, counselors, psychologists, and restorative practice coaches;
- (6) Enhancing physical wellness, including providing healthy food for in–school and out–of–school time and linkages to community providers;
- (7) Enhancing behavioral health services, including access to mental health practitioners and providing professional development to school staff to provide trauma–informed interventions;
- (8) Providing family and community engagement and supports, including informing parents of academic course offerings, language classes, workforce development training, opportunities for children, and available social services as well as educating families on how to monitor a child’s learning;
- (9) Establishing and enhancing linkages to Judy Centers and other early education programs that feed into the school;
- (10) Enhancing student enrichment experiences, including educational field trips, partnerships, and programs with museums, arts organizations, and cultural institutions;
- (11) Improving student attendance;
- (12) Improving the learning environment at the school; and
- (13) Any professional development for teachers and school staff to quickly identify students who are in need of these resources.

The breadth and scope of community school needs assessments and implementation plan involve connecting families with these wraparound services and much more. And the Blueprint clearly intends for this to be community-based process of engagement, buy-in, and partnership. Again, MABE believes that the ENOUGH program will contribute to the success of coordinated work by organizations and agencies, including local school systems.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 482.

SB0482_FAV_CFUF (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Jones

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 482

ENOUGH Act of 2024

TO: Hon. Brian Feldman, Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

DATE: March 1, 2024

FROM: Joe Jones, CEO & President

The Center for Urban Families (CFUF) advocates for legislative initiatives to strengthen urban communities by helping fathers and families achieve stability and economic success. CFUF supports Senate Bill 482 to establish the network needed to eradicate poverty in Baltimore.

The Center for Urban Families hosts the Baltimore Communities Assisting and Advancing Neighbors (BCAAN) program, currently sponsored by the Robin Hood Foundation, to fight poverty throughout Baltimore City with an emphasis on the following neighborhoods: Penn North, Reservoir Hill, Auchentoroly Terrace, Whittier-Monroe, Greater Mondawmin, Druid Heights, and Woodbrook/Parkview.

BCAAN is part of a \$25 million strategic collaboration among national and regional philanthropic partners, which has spurred the development of new solutions to sustainably lift families out of poverty and promote dynamic leaders who will aim to change the national conversation around social and economic mobility. Its ideas and projects were inspired by an advisory council of residents and 20 community organizations who designed the change they would like to see: a resurrection of hope, steppingstones for economic growth, lifting leaders from within the community, carrying out programs and investments in ways that respect community members, better access to resources and opportunities, access to healthy and nutritious food, and a reduction in violence to make Greater Penn North a safer place for all community members.

From 2022 - 2023, BCAAN worked with 286 community members who participated in leadership and advocacy training or received case management services, including referrals and emergency assistance resources. We conducted 28 one-day workshops covering 17 topics related to advocacy, including interacting with local government, communicating across different generations, advocating for their families, and preserving Black mental health. Our outreach coordinator continued to build relationships with the community and connect residents to resources and programming while remaining flexible. Due to community feedback, BCAAN designed nine additional leadership and advocacy workshops on topics of interest to residents (such as advocating within your school). All workshops were “earn while you learn,” which offered stipends and meals to residents for participation. We also met with



the advisory council to maintain a feedback loop on our activities. Finally, through our advisory council, we developed a community-grant-making process to fund resident-supported projects (a list of said projects is below).

Passing the ENOUGH Act will allow CFUF to partner with the state to continue the BCAAN program on a grander scale. We firmly believe the Governor's mantra "that those closest to the problem are, indeed, closest to the solution," and the BCAAN program's success proves it. Having worked with Wes Moore on this issue before his election via his work at the Robin Hood Foundation, the Center for Urban Families is uniquely positioned to move the ball forward on eradicating poverty in Maryland using education, proper distribution of resources, and community engagement. We hope to continue our partnership with the Governor and the newly crafted Governor's Office for Children as we tackle the lasting effects of generational poverty in Maryland. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

PROGRAMS FUNDED THROUGH BCAAN

St. Francis Neighborhood Association \$25,000

Project: The Power Project (PP), an innovative youth development and education-based afterschool/Out of School Time (OST) program provided at no cost to those who live, work, worship, or study in the 21217-zip code with an emphasis and focus on the members of the Reservoir Hill and Penn North communities, seeking to serve 125-150 students each school year.

Penn North Recovery Center- \$25,000

Project: The Clean Sweep Youth Project aims to engage 20-30 boys and girls ages 14-18 by empowering youth and promoting cleanliness and safety on our streets. Each participant in the Clean Sweep Youth Project will have access to services, including GED preparation, TABE testing, job readiness training, resume building, identity document assistance, and an incentive program, which will motivate and reward everyone who participates in the Clean Sweep Youth Project.

HER Resiliency Center-\$15,000

Project: HER Resiliency Center's Different Path Program will serve vulnerable, victimized, and marginalized women in the Greater Penn North Community through a holistic model, providing street outreach and intensive support to 40 women during the one-year grant period who desire assistance in changing their lives.



Cloverdale AC-BBA, Inc. -\$15,000

Project: The weekend co-ed basketball league, consisting of 6-8 teams, will cater to middle-school youth ages 10 -15 years, providing 10 hours of organized activity, including basketball practice and socio-emotional and youth leadership workshops, lunch, and afternoon basketball games, promoting physical health and social connections.

No Boundaries Coalition \$25,000

Project: No Boundaries Coalition will host two cohorts of Leadership Academy from August 2023 to July 2024. The Leadership Academy will be a 12-week classroom-style program that teaches civic and community engagement. Upon graduation, leaders will be eligible for both a mini-grant

opportunity and completion of a paid year of service to apply the skills learned in the program within Penn North and surrounding communities.

KEYS Empowers, Inc. \$15,000

Project: KEYS will assist 30-40 families of the Greater Penn North Community who: Need assistance with curving learning gaps caused by COVID-19; Interested in attending programs for higher education or vocational training; Interested in exploring a hobby or trade to create economic stability and self-fulfillment through case management and individualized educational and financial supports.

Social and Economic Empowerment through Knowledge (SEEK)- \$15,000

Project: The Entrepreneurship 10.0 Program equips participants with the knowledge, resources, and support necessary to navigate the entrepreneurial journey successfully. By the program's end, 10 participants will have acquired a Maryland registered business, an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for their business from the IRS, and the guidance of a dedicated business mentor from SCORE.

Arch Social Community Network \$25,000

Project: Arch Social Youth and Young Adult preparatory programs, providing weekly sessions to learn and participate in educational, cultural, and volunteering activities with a mission to continue to prepare and train 18 young adults ages 14- 24 on the importance of physical and mental health, self-governance, financial literacy, community service, and project development

MD_ENOUGH Act Senate Testimony Letter_StriveTogeth

Uploaded by: Josh Davis

Position: FAV

**StriveTogether
Board of Directors**

February 29, 2024

Danae D. Davis
Former network
leader

To: Maryland Senate, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
From: Josh Davis, Vice President of Policy and Partnerships
Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482)

Connie Ballmer
Ballmer Group

Good afternoon. My name is Josh Davis and I represent StriveTogether where we work nationally to ensure every child has the best chance to succeed in life, regardless of race, zip code, ethnicity or socioeconomic level born into.

James Bell
W. Haywood
Burns Institute

Robert Blaine
National League
of Cities

For far too long generational cycles of poverty and lack of opportunity have held back Maryland children and families from the serenity of the eastern shore to the soaring western mountains. That is why StriveTogether is proud to support the ENOUGH Act, legislation reimagining how the State of Maryland uplifts children and families and gives those in underserved or under-resourced areas a chance to better their situation.

Russell Booker
Spartanburg
Academic
Movement

Tom Fry
Philanthropic
Advisor

The ENOUGH Act will fund and assist the development of new neighborhood and regional place-based partnerships while strengthening existing ones through a competitive grant process administered by the Governor's Office for Children. This grant program will support Maryland's children and young people through education opportunities and career readiness. Additionally, the bill will boost families and communities by providing access to good jobs, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and quality healthcare, including mental health services.

Lisa Hamilton
The Annie E. Casey
Foundation

Sue Lehmann
Student Success
Network

Michael McAfee
PolicyLink

Through place-based initiatives, this legislation will target the root causes of hardship in communities – rural, suburban, and urban – that have disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty. Place-based initiatives take an evidence-based approach, looking at what children, families, and neighborhoods actually need, and providing concrete social services like education programs, family support, community development, and healthcare for those who need it most, changing the trajectory and outcomes for a child's future college and career success.

**Andrea "Andi"
Phillips**
Maycomb Capital

Tony Pipa
Brookings Institution

Richard Raya
Mission Economic
Development Agency

David Williams
High Opportunity
Neighborhood
Partners

Maryland has a strong track record of supporting education projects, including complementary initiatives like the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Passed in 2021, the Blueprint increases education funding to accelerate student outcomes and improve the quality of the state's schools. The ENOUGH Act takes this one step

Jennifer Blatz
StriveTogether
President and CEO

further, deploying a whole-of-community approach, designed to give communities the support and resources needed to uplift children and families, and ultimately combat poverty. The strength of the ENOUGH Act is that it will create critical infrastructure for place-based partnerships, expand access to resources to implement this work throughout Maryland, and set a national example for statewide investments in economic mobility. Furthermore, the ENOUGH Act will align and leverage cross-sector community partners for the equitable distribution of services for children and families; promote systems change by funding and advocating for programs and policy changes across the state; and collect, assess, and share data by working with partner organizations and communities to identify the needs within neighborhoods, implement evidence-based solutions, and use data to continuously improve programs.

And notably, this bill is intentional about ensuring that the voices of those closest to the problem are centered in finding a solution. A key part of the ENOUGH Act entails working with community organizations, non-profits, anchor institutions, and other key community members to develop locally-focused, targeted plans of action to address poverty.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically support the ENOUGH Act and believe it will be a national example for states around the country in the fight against child poverty. Maryland is already the proud home to many businesses and has one of the best hospital networks in the nation. The infrastructure exists for them to be successful and when combined with additional outside funding, can be a model for the nation.

We know that a child's ability to access opportunities that allow for social and economic mobility is contingent on them growing up in strong and supportive homes in thriving communities. The ENOUGH Act is the kind of all-hands-on-deck, whole-of-government approach that is critical to transforming communities and building a future where no child's potential is limited by their zip code. Through the ENOUGH Act, Maryland will invest in local and regional place-based networks that are equity focused, data-driven, and have the capacity to identify the highest needs within the most under-resourced neighborhoods.

By passing this legislation, we will unlock the promise of all Maryland children, placing them on a path to academic success while also strengthening families, fostering community engagement, and instilling civic pride.

StriveTogether urges the passage of the ENOUGH Act and is grateful for the opportunity to express our strong approval of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Vice President, Policy and Partnerships

MML-SB 482 - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 1, 2024

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill: SB 482 – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 482, which would establish the ENOUGH grant program and Fund to provide support and resources in communities to address the root causes of poverty.

Maryland's cities and towns are excited to participate with community partners to address poverty in its various forms across the state, from early childhood through young adulthood. The ENOUGH program represents a tremendous opportunity to bring together local governments and organizations that already have some of the framework and connections to make a difference.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide Senate Bill 482 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.
Bill Jorch
Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Director, Public Policy & Research
Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

ENOUGH Testimony_final Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Kim Eisenreich

Position: FAV



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.



Maryland Association of
LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Eisenreich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly Eisenreich
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards
Co-Chair

CJJ favorable SB482.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Commission on Juvenile Justice

Marc Elrich
County Executive

James C. Bridgers, Jr. Ph.D., MBA
Director

March 1, 2024
SB 482 -- Favorable

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (MC CJJ) in **support of Senate Bill 482, the ENOUGH Act of 2024**. MC CJJ was established to advise the Montgomery County Executive, County Council and the Juvenile Court on matters concerning juvenile justice. Our work includes gathering and disseminating information from public and private agencies serving youth, monitoring juvenile justice programs and services, visiting facilities, closely following relevant State and local legislation, and making recommendations regarding juvenile needs. MC CJJ is composed of appointed, volunteer citizen members, and agency members that include the Child Welfare Services Program, the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

We believe that the establishment of a Governor's Office for Children will help to strengthen and prioritize Maryland's commitment to the health and well-being of our children. We are very supportive of the legislation's establishment of the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program to provide access to high-quality education and care for Maryland's children and high-quality support for our children with disabilities, and those involved in the child welfare and/or the youth justice system. MC CJJ strongly supports efforts to close service gaps and to improve access to services for families and children, especially those that address the mental health, emotional, behavioral, and social needs of troubled youth and that are developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed. This bill can help to provide these types of resources which families and children need to thrive and which will thereby help to reduce youth justice system involvement.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 482.

Sincerely,

Kevin Redden, Chair
Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice

Local Behavioral Health Authority • Behavioral Health and Crisis Services

401 Hungerford Drive • Rockville, Maryland 20850 • 240-777-1400 • 240-777-1628 FAX
montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs • montgomerycountymd.gov/311 • Maryland Relay 711

2024 MAYSB SB 482 Enough ACT Senate FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Park

Position: FAV



"Being here for Maryland's Children, Youth, and Families"

Testimony submitted to Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 1, 2024

**Senate Bill 482 – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments,
and Households Grant Program
ENOUGH Act of 2024**

Support

The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus (MAYSB), which represents a network of YSBs in Maryland, **SUPPORTS** *Senate Bill 482: Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)*. YSBs provide prevention, intervention and treatment services and understand the importance of serving the most vulnerable, Maryland's children and families living in poverty in Maryland.

We applaud the bill in re-establishing the Governor's Office for Children and the appointment of a Special Secretary. Children deserve an office dedicated to understanding their needs and developing effective systems of care and services to meet these needs. Maryland's children and their families are facing many issues including mental health concerns, access to food, quality education, employment opportunities, home and community violence and medical care. MAYSB looks forward to working with GOC to address these issues and re-establish and create local services to meet these needs.

The establishment of the ENOUGH Grant fund is also appreciated, as it begins to dedicate funds to the needs of children and their families. The inclusion of Neighborhood Implementation Grants is welcomed, as it allows more community focused initiatives by organizations, schools and local governments that know and understand the needs in these communities. Youth Service Bureaus have been working in their respective communities for over 50 years and have historically received funds from the GOC to provide mental health prevention and intervention services, food resources and employment & educational supports. We look forward to the opportunity to continue this work through the ENOUGH Grant program.

We respectfully ask for favorable finding for this bill.

Respectfully Submitted: Liz Park, PhD
MAYSB Chair
lpark@greenbeltmd.gov

Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.-- Letter in Supp

Uploaded by: Marilyn Neal

Position: FAV



NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER, INC.

Marilyn M. Neal, Executive Director

www.nsctalbotmd.org

**"Helping People
Changing Lives"**

126 Port Street
Easton, MD 21601
Phone: 410-822-5015
Fax: 410-822-1369

February 29, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Written Testimony in Support of ENOUGH Act SB482

I am writing on behalf of Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. ("NSC"), the designated Community Action Agency for Talbot County, Maryland, to express our endorsement of the ENOUGH (Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households) Act.

Community Action Agencies like NSC aim to engage the community, including elected officials, private sector representatives, and particularly low-income residents, in identifying local needs and addressing the root causes of poverty.

Currently, 9.3% of the overall population in Talbot County lives below the poverty line. These households struggle to afford basic necessities such as food, childcare, healthcare, housing, transportation, civic engagement, and access to mobile and internet services.

While the Act is intended for communities with a **poverty rate of 20%**, Talbot County harbors several Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed "ALICE" Households (households that earned above the FPL but not enough to afford the basic in the communities where they live), with notably high percentages obscured by the general poverty rate in various regions. For example: Easton was listed at 36% below the ALICE Threshold with 10,447 households; McDaniel at 38% with 108 households; Royal Oak at 30% with 231 households; St. Michaels at 33% with 1,635 households; Tilghman at 50% with 380 households; Trappe at 50% with 1,431 households; and Wittman at 36% with 204 households. However, it is important to note that overall, 35% or 16,251 of All Talbot Households are Alice. Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2007-2018; American Community Survey, 2007-2018; unitedforalice.org.

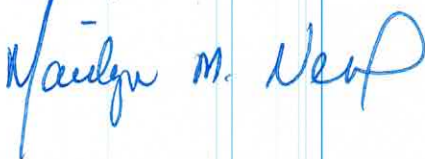
Additionally, the child poverty rate across Talbot County was estimated at 13.3% in 2022 by the US Census Bureau. Moreover, while Child Insecurity and Hunger in Talbot were reported at 16.8% by Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap in 2019. In Talbot County, 39% of students are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced price meal program and 4.6% of students are English Language learners.

Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. strongly endorses the pursuit of the ENOUGH Act as a potential source for the Anti-Poverty Fund. The Act's focus on advancing community well-being and safety, providing comprehensive education and assistance, improving access to high-quality employment, and guaranteeing financial stability and essential services for families, demonstrates a comprehensive and forward-thinking strategy to bolstering the welfare of children. This is vital for the State and Talbot County, where a significant disparity exists between the cost of living and prevailing wages.

For any inquiries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 822-5015 or via email at mneal@nsctalbotmd.org.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn M. Neal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first "l" in "Neal".

Marilyn M. Neal
Executive Director

SB 482 - ENOUGH Act of 2024 - SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Jolin

Position: FAV

February 26, 2024

SB 482 - ENOUGH Act of 2024

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members:

Today we write to support Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482 / HB 694) to uplift children and families in the state and give those in under-resourced and underinvested neighborhoods a chance to not have their circumstance dictate their outcomes in life. We are a coalition of national organizations that work to improve economic mobility for millions of children and families across the country. We have come together to support the ENOUGH ACT because we believe this legislation can help achieve this goal in communities across Maryland. Through our work, we have seen the power of this approach and believe it can tackle the root causes of poverty and improve outcomes for children and families. If this bill is signed into law, we are committed to helping the State of Maryland implement the ENOUGH Act in a collaborative, community-oriented, evidence-driven way.

For far too long generational cycles of poverty and lack of opportunity have held back Maryland children and families from Worcester County to Garrett County and every town, village and city in between. The ENOUGH Act will combat this pervasive problem by funding and assisting the development of new neighborhood and regional place-based partnerships while strengthening existing ones through a competitive grant process administered by the Governor's Office for Children. This grant program will support Maryland's children and young people through education opportunities and career readiness. Additionally, the bill will boost families and communities by providing access to good jobs, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and quality healthcare, including mental health services.

We are especially supportive of this legislation because it will use place-based initiatives, targeting the root causes of hardship in communities – rural, suburban, and urban – that have disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty. Place-based initiatives take an evidence-based approach, looking at what children, families, and neighborhoods actually need, and providing quality social services through education programs, family support, community development, and healthcare for those who need it the most, changing the trajectory and outcomes for children by placing them on a path toward social and economic mobility, from cradle to career.

With its long history of supporting education projects, including complementary initiatives like the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Maryland is leading the nation in the fight against child poverty with this legislation. Passed in 2021, the Blueprint increases education funding to

accelerate student outcomes and improve the quality of the state's schools. The ENOUGH Act takes this one step further, deploying a whole-of-community approach, designed to give communities the support and resources needed to uplift children and families, and ultimately break the cycle of generational poverty. The strength of the ENOUGH Act is that it will create critical infrastructure for place-based partnerships, expand access to resources to implement this work throughout Maryland, and set a national example for statewide investments in economic mobility. Furthermore, the ENOUGH Act will align and leverage cross-sector community partners for the equitable distribution of services for children and families; promote systems change by funding and advocating for programs and policy changes across the state; and collect, assess, and share data by working with partner organizations and communities to identify the needs within neighborhoods, implement evidence-based solutions, and use data to continuously improve programs for better, more equitable outcomes.

We urge the Committee to support this legislation. We believe the ENOUGH Act will not only greatly benefit children and families in Maryland but will serve as an example for states around the country in the fight against poverty.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our collective opinion on SB 482 / HB 694 - we encourage a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Results for America
Partners for Rural Impact
Purpose Built Communities
StriveTogether
William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone

SB482 due 2-29-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Mitchell Posner

Position: FAV

February 28, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: In support of SB482, Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

As Executive Director of the Community Assistance Network, Inc. (CAN) and Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 482, the ENOUGH Act of 2024, with proposed amendments.

The key provisions outlined in SB482 present a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to tackling child poverty in our state. The creation of the Governor's Office for Children, led by the Special Secretary, provides a dedicated focal point for addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by children and families.

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.

MCAP agencies across the State are already implementing a Whole Family/2Gen approach to moving the multi-generational families we serve to self-sufficiency. In Baltimore County (CAN's jurisdiction) there are 49 census tracts where more than 20% of the children are living below the poverty rate. MCAP agencies such as CAN are well positioned to assist with the successful implementation of the ENOUGH Act's objectives.

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. These grants should be administered on a competitive basis, with entities following all guidelines established by the Governor's Office for Children. This amendment ensures that funds are directed to experienced organizations that have a history of successfully serving their communities. We believe that this amendment will enhance the impact of the ENOUGH Act by leveraging the expertise and existing infrastructure of Community Action Agencies, ultimately contributing to a more targeted and efficient implementation of the program.

In conclusion, we express our support for SB482 – the ENOUGH Act of 2024, with the suggested amendment. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal, as it aims to further strengthen the effectiveness of the legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Mitchell Posner
Executive Director

P.S. If you should have any questions, you can reach out to our lobbyist, Darrell Carrington, Carrington & Associates, LLC, at Darrell.carrington@verizon.net or 732-763-7398

SB482_RMC_SupportTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Molli Cole

Position: FAV



50 Harry S. Truman Parkway • Annapolis, MD 21401
Office: 410-841-5772 • Voice: 410-841-5761 • TTY: 800-735-2258
Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov
Website: www.rural.maryland.gov

Susan O'Neill, Chair

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 482 – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations,
Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 1, 2024

The Rural Maryland Council supports Senate Bill 482 – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024). The ENOUGH Act is a program designed to help communities with a high number of children living in poverty, regardless of whether they are in rural, suburban, or urban areas. The program aims to provide support through place-based interventions that help these communities assess their existing pathways to success, coordinate across different sectors, and address challenges in a strategic and holistic manner. Communities that meet these criteria can apply for competitive grant funding of up to \$10 million per year. The Governor's Office of Children will oversee the program.

Senate Bill 482 aims to bridge gaps in existing funding streams to support children and families, from early childcare and education to affordable housing, public safety, and civic infrastructure. The bill also looks to neighborhoods in these areas to address their areas of need. For many rural communities, this would be a critical piece of legislation to help bring underserved portions of the state more resources.

Rural communities in Maryland often face significant obstacles that hinder their growth and development, with nine out of ten of the poorest counties in the state being rural. One of the most pressing challenges is the lack of affordable housing, which makes it difficult for individuals and families to find suitable homes. Another issue is the shortage of resources for school systems, which can result in limited educational opportunities for students. Additionally, many rural areas suffer from crumbling infrastructure, including deteriorating roads, bridges, and public facilities.

Despite these challenges, rural Maryland has the potential to thrive if these issues are addressed. By bridging the gap in these areas of need, rural communities can attract more resources, businesses, and organizations, which can in turn improve the quality of life for both current and future residents. Through strategic investments in affordable housing, education, and infrastructure, rural Maryland can become a vibrant and prosperous region that offers a high quality of life for all its residents.

The Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests your favorable support of Senate Bill 482.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county, and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

“A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland”

ENOUGH - Favorable.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Myles Hicks

Position: FAV



WES MOORE.
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee,

I urge a favorable report on HB694/SB482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024).

The ENOUGH Act is a data-backed approach to eliminate poverty in our rural, urban, and suburban communities by channeling state money and support toward our most impoverished neighborhoods and building new partnerships across all levels of society to take on this issue. Eligible applicants must be partnerships that include at least one community-based non-profit, one local government entity, and one local public school – and may include unions or worker organizations; anchor institutions; small businesses; local law enforcement; and faith-based organizations. Applicants must submit a thorough proposal that includes a clear vision for transformation in their community.

The ENOUGH Act expands on the success of programs like the nonprofit initiative “Harlem Children’s Zone” in New York and the federal initiative “Promise Neighborhoods” by building safer, healthier communities so that we can break cycles of poverty and violence. Maryland needs to focus on the communities that have gone unseen, unheard, and underestimated – and we must do it in a way that follows best practices and elevates community voices. That’s exactly what our legislation will help achieve. ENOUGH will channel private, philanthropic, and state resources toward communities across our state with high rates of generational child poverty.

The Moore-Miller Administration is excited for the Governor’s Office for Children to work with leaders on the ground to ensure each community’s specific issues are being addressed. We want to ensure that this next chapter in our state’s success is written by our communities – and not simply for them. That mindset is at the center of the ENOUGH Act.

We proudly launched a frontal assault on child poverty on inauguration day. Today, that work continues. And it isn’t just important – it is essential. If you are born into poverty, you are very likely to die in poverty. We cannot win the decade if one in eight Marylander children are currently living at or below a poverty line. Poverty is a choice, and good policies can help us break these cycles of hardship. We need to disrupt patterns that drive pain, hardship, and tragedy and unlock the full promise of our state. We can – and we will – through this legislation. The

ENOUGH Act will help us make Maryland more competitive, elevate our communities, and refocus state government. I strongly urge a favorable committee vote.

Sincerely,
Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland

SB0482-BT-EEE-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0482

March 1, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation and Education Energy and the Environment Committees

FROM: Brandon M. Scott, Mayor, City of Baltimore

RE: Senate Bill 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairs Guzzone and Feldman, Vice Chairs Rosapepe and Kagan, and members of the Committees, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 482.

SB482 will codify the Governor's Office for Children, establish the ENOUGH Grant Fund and add a requirement for the Governor to include an appropriation of \$15 million to the Enough Grant Fund. The ENOUGH Act will allow for substantial investment in communities throughout Maryland that have been disinvested in for decades.

Communities with high rates of child poverty will now have the resources to significantly decrease the effects of child poverty once this bill is passed. Members of these targeted communities will be able to learn and live in safe and thriving environments.

In order to fully tackle the historic disinvestment that has taken place throughout our communities, we as Maylanders need to utilize every tool available to us. SB482 will become another vital tool in the fight against poverty.

For the above reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 482.

Letter of Support_ SB0482 The ENOUGH Act 2024 .pdf

Uploaded by: Phylcia Porter

Position: FAV

CITY OF BALTIMORE

Room 527, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Telephone: (410) 396-4822
Email: Phylicia.Porter@baltimorecity.gov



Councilwoman Phylicia R. L. Porter

District 10

MEMBER:

Public Safety and Government Operations
Education, Workforce, and Youth
Health, Environment, and Technology

February 29, 2024

The Education, Energy and the Environment
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony Supporting SB0482 The ENOUGH Act 2024

Re: Support for SB0482 The ENOUGH Act 2024 from Members of the Baltimore City Council

Dear Chair Feldman and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Today we write in strong support of the Governor's Office of Children- Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act 2024). The ENOUGH Act 2024, a crucial piece of legislation is vital to the social, economic, and infrastructural improvement of communities across the city of Baltimore and the state of Maryland. As dedicated public servants who believe in the power of legislative action, we thank the Moore–Miller administration for introducing this monumental act and for forging a meaningful path to better invest in communities characterized by the weight of historic concentrated poverty.

For generations, children and families across Baltimore City have had to reimagine what it means to simply survive. More specifically, those living in underserved communities have been burdened with food insufficiencies, a lack of access to quality healthcare, and sparse economic opportunity. These systemic barriers have hindered their ability to access essential resources and have often left populations isolated and vulnerable. The ENOUGH Act stands to use political will, cultural competency, and \$15 million in state level funding to change this trajectory. By focusing on the root causes of concentrated poverty and building hyper-focused improvement plans, this initiative is a step in the right direction if we plan to improve the basic quality of life for so many Marylanders.

The 73rd Baltimore City Council has intentionally prioritized children, families, and our most vulnerable populations which remains at the center of our work. Collaboratively, we have passed legislation to address the consequences of redlining and chronic disinvestment while maintaining our duty to be fiscally responsible. From policies like the Inclusionary Housing tax credit to holding the executive leadership of our city agencies accountable, this Council has played a critical role in addressing the issues that are prevalent across the City of Baltimore.

The passage and future implementation of SB0482 provides us with the opportunity to take on these issues with more innovative approaches which Baltimoreans will reap the benefits of good government.

The ENOUGH Act is designed to build an infrastructure for implementation and to tackle complex disparities head-on. We believe that this bill is carefully crafted in a way that it not only brings in new resources to jurisdictions that have historically experienced underinvestment. But it will also position coalitions of active community leaders, historic residents, and key stakeholders as the decision makers driving this change. By leaning into this invaluable expertise and perspective, the work done through the ENOUGH Act will make a meaningful impact on the lives of countless individuals in some of our most unseen and underestimated communities.

The Baltimore City Council urges the favorable passage of this historic legislation and is ready to walk alongside our colleagues and neighbors to redefine what is possible in our communities.

Below, members of the Baltimore City Council are supportive of the ENOUGH Act and look forward to working with the Moore- Miller administration to ensure a better quality of life for generations to come from this historic legislation.

In Partnership,



Councilwoman Phylicia Porter, MPH, MSL - District 10
Phylicia.Porter@baltimorecity.gov



Nick J. Mosby, President, Baltimore City Council



Zeke Cohen Councilman, Baltimore City Council District 1



Mark Conway Chairman, Baltimore City District 4



Sharon Green Middleton Vice President, Baltimore City Council District 6



James Torrence Councilman, Baltimore City District 7



Kristerfer Burnett Councilman, Baltimore City District 8



John T. Bullock Chairman, Baltimore City District 9



Councilman Antonio Glover – District 13



Odette Ramos Councilwoman, Baltimore City District 14

SB482 - FAV - DHS.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Sledge Government Affairs

Position: FAV

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON SB0482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging
Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households
(ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024) - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide favorable testimony in support of Senate Bill 482 (SB0482), the ENOUGH Act of 2024. With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, we empower Marylanders to reach their full potential by providing preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to workforce development and career opportunities.

The ENOUGH Act will lay the foundation for eliminating childhood poverty in Maryland. The Act will channel private, philanthropic and state resources toward communities across the state with high rates of generational child poverty. The persistent lack of resources and sudden change or volatility in a family's economic situation negatively impacts parent, child, and family well-being. The legislation lifts up Marylanders at the intersection of DHS's two most important missions—improving child welfare and empowering those who are excluded from or marginalized in the economy. The ENOUGH Act establishes grant funding to end child poverty at the local level using a data driven, place-based, and targeted approach. In addition, the Act will support basing strategies on local and national best practices.

While broader economic and policy factors drive poverty, children, youth, and their families are impacted by their environment. State policy should center the lived experiences of children and their families to better align neighborhood and community resources. The Act recognizes sustainable change requires local, grassroots efforts tailored to the people closest to the problems because they are closest to the solutions. By following the data, we believe in efficient and effective investment of resources.

Without coordinated interventions to alleviate adverse childhood experiences, multi-generational cycles of poverty become even harder to disrupt; leading to immense



moral, social, and economic costs over time, and disproportionately impacting populations that have been marginalized.

The ENOUGH Act calls on community leaders to come together and create comprehensive plans on how to make their neighborhoods better, on their terms. Maryland has a responsibility, through fiscal, social, and economic policy, to partner with communities to address historical inequities to achieve a higher standard of living. We believe it reduces family stress and the likelihood of a child or youth experiencing traumatic and expensive, unnecessary child welfare involvement.

National research highlights families experiencing poverty are more likely to be reported for child neglect through no fault of their own. Neglect is the most common type of reported child maltreatment in the U.S with 75% of reports to child protective services involving allegations of neglect according to the United States Children's Bureau. Neglect is often reported when a caregiver is unable to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision, threatening a child's safety.

However, an inability of a family to provide necessities for their children is not the same as an unwillingness to provide. Stabilizing families with economic assistance or concrete support can build protective factors and decrease reports of neglect. Child maltreatment rates have declined by 56% over the past 30 years, but by contrast, rates of reported child neglect remain high. The University of Washington researchers found states that offer a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) experienced a significant drop in state-level reports of child maltreatment. Specifically, for each additional \$1,000 in per-child EITC refund, state reports of child maltreatment to child welfare authorities declined 5% in the weeks following.

The ENOUGH Act establishes a grant program to:

- Increase community health and safety;
- Strengthen "cradle to career" access to high-quality education and care;
- Enable family-sustaining income and access to affordable housing, child care, and health care, including behavioral and mental health services;
- Connects residents to quality jobs; and
- Provides high-quality support for children with disabilities, child welfare, and justice involved youth.

We believe the ENOUGH Act will generate actionable data and research on effective community-led, anti-poverty models for potential replication in future DHS-administered programs, and will be a force driving innovation in how we provide technical assistance, engage grassroots partners, and evaluate outcomes. Creating a centralized coordination office—the Governor's Office for Children—to assist with identifying, planning, and awareness-building in alignment with DHS priorities will prove invaluable



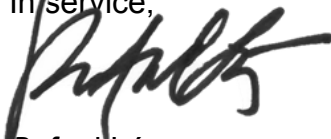
as we leverage evidence-based, place-based programming statewide.

DHS serves as one of Maryland's leading child welfare and anti-poverty organizations and strongly supports the ENOUGH Act's approach. While money is extremely important, strategy is imperative. The Act will help us all spend smarter and wiser across all state programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. We look forward to the decision of the Committee and welcome continued collaboration on SB0482.

If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at rachel.sledge@maryland.gov.

In service,



Rafael López
Secretary

036 LOS SB482 CSMC Signed.pdf

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 482
Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations,
Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program
(ENOUGH Act of 2024)

SUPPORT

February 27, 2024

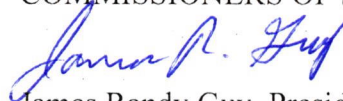
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT Senate Bill 482 – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)** which is being heard in the Education, Energy and Environment Committee.

We support SB 482 and urge a favorable report. We believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2024/036

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Todd Morgan
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

MEDA ENOUGH ACT Senate Testimony Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Raya

Position: FAV



2301 Mission Street
Suite 301
San Francisco, CA 94110

February 29, 2024

To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

From: Mission Economic Development Agency

Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482 / HB 694)

Good afternoon. My name is Richard Raya and I represent the Mission Economic Development Agency, where we are advancing a national equity movement by building prosperity, community ownership, and civic power.

For far too long generational cycles of poverty and lack of opportunity have held back Maryland children and families from the serenity of the eastern shore to the soaring western mountains. That is why [ORG] is proud to support the ENOUGH Act, legislation reimagining how the State of Maryland uplifts children and families and gives those in underserved or under-resourced areas a chance to better their situation.

The ENOUGH Act will fund and assist the development of new neighborhood and regional place-based partnerships while strengthening existing ones through a competitive grant process administered by the Governor's Office for Children. This grant program will support Maryland's children and young people through education opportunities and career readiness. Additionally, the bill will boost families and communities by providing access to good jobs, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and quality healthcare, including mental health services.

Through place-based initiatives, this legislation will target the root causes of hardship in communities – rural, suburban, and urban – that have disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty. Place-based initiatives take an evidence-based approach, looking at what children, families, and neighborhoods actually need, and providing concrete social services like education programs, family support, community development, and healthcare for those who need it most, changing the trajectory and outcomes for a child's future college and career success.

Maryland has a strong track record of supporting education projects, including complementary initiatives like the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Passed in 2021, the Blueprint increases education funding to accelerate student outcomes and improve the quality of the state's

schools. The ENOUGH Act takes this one step further, deploying a whole-of-community approach, designed to give communities the support and resources needed to uplift children and families, and ultimately combat poverty. The strength of the ENOUGH Act is that it will create critical infrastructure for place-based partnerships, expand access to resources to implement this work throughout Maryland, and set a national example for statewide investments in economic mobility. Furthermore, the ENOUGH Act will align and leverage cross-sector community partners for the equitable distribution of services for children and families; promote systems change by funding and advocating for programs and policy changes across the state; and collect, assess, and share data by working with partner organizations and communities to identify the needs within neighborhoods, implement evidence-based solutions, and use data to continuously improve programs.

And notably, this bill is intentional about ensuring that the voices of those closest to the problem are centered in finding a solution. A key part of the ENOUGH Act entails working with community organizations, non-profits, anchor institutions, and other key community members to develop locally-focused, targeted plans of action to address poverty.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically support the ENOUGH Act and believe it will be a national example for states around the country in the fight against child poverty. Maryland is already the proud home to many businesses and has one of the best hospital networks in the nation. The infrastructure exists for them to be successful and when combined with additional outside funding, can be a model for the nation.

We know that a child's ability to access opportunities that allow for social and economic mobility is contingent on them growing up in strong and supportive homes in thriving communities. The ENOUGH Act is the kind of all-hands-on-deck, whole-of-government approach that is critical to transforming communities and building a future where no child's potential is limited by their zip code. Through the ENOUGH Act, Maryland will invest in local and regional place-based networks that are equity focused, data-driven, and have the capacity to identify the highest needs within the most under-resourced neighborhoods.

By passing this legislation, we will unlock the promise of all Maryland children, placing them on a path to academic success while also strengthening families, fostering community engagement, and instilling civic pride.

The Mission Economic Development Agency urges the passage of the ENOUGH Act and is grateful for the opportunity to express our strong approval of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard Raya
Chief Strategy Officer
Mission Economic Development Agency

KABOOM! SB 482 ENOUGH Act Testimony Senate - FAV.p

Uploaded by: Robert Mayer

Position: FAV



KABOOM! Testimony in Support of SB 482
Governor's Office for Children - ENOUGH Act of 2024
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 1, 2024

KABOOM! is the national nonprofit whose mission is to eliminate playspace inequity in historically disinvested communities across the country. As a result of historical laws and policies which were racially biased, like red-lining, discriminatory educational investment, and denial of commercial lending to minority business owners, many residential Black and brown communities do not have access to outdoor recreational spaces and playgrounds. Play and physical activity are vital to children's physical, emotional, and social development—and without access to the infrastructure that supports these activities—they are more likely to develop health conditions like obesity, anxiety, cardio-vascular disease, diabetes, and depression.

Our approach to addressing this challenge is to not only encourage greater investment in these communities but to advance principles of co-design and co-creation of the playspaces with the community. We do this through an inclusive design process that centers community voices and then invite the community to return as volunteers who help install the playground during the construction phase. By placing the community at the heart of this process we are ensuring a sense of ownership and belonging within the space they co-create.

This approach is even more important when allocating public funding to historically disinvested communities and that is why KABOOM! supports the Moore Administration's ENOUGH Grant Program Act of 2024. By creating a new grant program that places the individuals and groups that are often most impacted by state funding decisions at the center of the process, the Moore Administration is taking an important step towards creating a more equitable funding ecosystem.

This approach will also get people more engaged with their government. Civic engagement is a necessary step in fostering a more empowered community which can then exercise an increasing degree of agency over the political and governmental process. This not only leads to a more informed citizenry but one that is also better able to resist misinformation or other attacks on our democratic process. KABOOM! has long acknowledged the benefits of a community-based model of design and work. In cities like Chicago, this approach helped reduce violence in the Pullman neighborhood on the city's southside.

In Uvalde, this process has helped spark healing following the mass-shooting event which shook that community to its core. And in Baltimore, educators are seeing the transformative power of a playground on the mental health of their students when they feel a sense of belonging which comes from helping design and build the playspace.

(over)

We hope that this grant program can serve as a model for other funding streams in the future. While participatory grant making should not replace the current method of allocating most public funds, there are ways to make some existing streams more responsive to residents' wishes and this program can serve as an important proof of concept for this approach.

SB482.pdf

Uploaded by: Ruth Crystal

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

SB0482 – Governor’s Office for Children – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President, League of Women Voters of Maryland

DATE: March 1, 2024

The League of Women Voters of Maryland is a nonpartisan organization that works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League believes that some of the goals of social policy should be to reduce poverty among Marylanders, and to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. The League believes that meeting the needs of children should be one of the highest priorities of government, as should be the provision of effective services for children – emphasizing collaborative, community based, accessible services that focus on early intervention.

According to the 2024 Social Demographics Report of the Maryland Family Network, in 2022, 11.8% of Maryland children under 18 were living in poverty. In that same year, data show that 6.2% of Maryland families were in poverty, but almost double that, 12.3%, of Maryland families with children under 5 were living in poverty. Child poverty is one of the primary social determinants of health, which are factors that have been identified as predictors of success in adult life. It is also considered an Adverse Childhood Experience; research focusing on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) show that the fewer ACES an individual experiences, the more likely they are to be successful in school, have greater lifetime earnings, and lead healthier adult lives.

The ENOUGH Act of 2024 provides for the establishment of the Governor’s Office for Children, to be led by the Special Secretary of the Governor’s Office for Children, for the purpose of establishing the ENOUGH grant program. This grant program would target communities with disproportionately high numbers of children in poverty. Localities that meet this threshold can then apply for up to \$10 million in grant funding to establish a partnership of local stakeholders that will develop programs and services to effectively reduce child poverty and provide for the building of individual and community protective factors and increase the rate of success of children and families in that locality. Partnerships must be collaborative, and include one community-based non-profit, one local government entity, and one public school. They can also include health care providers, law enforcement, local businesses, parent organizations, faith based organizations, and others.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland, representing over 1,000 concerned Maryland citizens, strongly urges a favorable report on SB0482..

ENOUGH Act Favorable Support - Partners for Rural

Uploaded by: Shane Garver

Position: FAV



February 26, 2024

To: Committee Members

From: Shane Garver, Partners for Rural Impact

Subject: Favorable Testimony for Maryland's ENOUGH Act (SB 482 / HB 694)

Dear Committee Members:

Partners for Rural Impact (PRI) writes today to express our strong support for the ENOUGH act. At PRI our ultimate goal is for an America where all kids are successful, regardless of zip code, income, background, or ability. At PRI, our focus is on ensuring that all children in rural places achieve success, particularly working to ensure an additional 1 million rural youth are on a pathway to upward mobility by 2030. Partners for Rural Impact was born out of our place-based partnership in Appalachia, where we've worked for 25 years to create student opportunity and success. Through our place-based work we not only provide academic services and supports but we are also able to provide wraparound supports/services for youth and their families. PRI has seen the power of Promise Neighborhoods (PN) and similar approaches in our rural areas, having successfully run the first rural PN in the nation, we are currently implementing our fourth PN in Letcher County Kentucky.

For far too long generational cycles of poverty and lack of opportunity have held back Maryland children and families from the serenity of the eastern shore to the soaring western mountains. That is why Partners for Rural Impact is proud to support the ENOUGH Act, legislation reimagining how the State of Maryland uplifts children and families and gives those in underserved or under-resourced areas a chance to better their situation.

The ENOUGH Act will fund and assist the development of new neighborhood and regional place-based partnerships while strengthening existing ones through a competitive grant process administered by the Governor's Office for Children. This grant program will support Maryland's children and young people through education opportunities and career readiness. Additionally, the bill will boost families and communities by providing access to good jobs, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and quality healthcare, including mental health services.

In our place-based partnerships/programs, similar to those that would be supported by the ENOUGH Act we see the importance of bringing cross-sector partners to the table to ensure all aspects of a youth's life is addressed and all needs of the youth are known. Our experience tells us that reaching these outcomes in rural areas of the state will present specific challenges that place-based approaches are uniquely positioned to meet. This includes skillfully braiding programs and funding streams together, which the approach of the ENOUGH Act promotes. PRI has seen first hand the benefit of taking this approach in our own work. We focus on braiding different federal funding streams together to strengthen our place-based partnerships and solve for a multitude of challenges. For example we have created a talent development pipeline and

helped schools address teacher shortages by braiding AmeriCorps and Full-Service Community Schools into our approach. Each of these programs meets the needs of local youth to move outcomes while providing professional development and employment opportunities that support local residents on a pathway to education careers.

Through place-based initiatives, this legislation will target the root causes of hardship in communities – rural, suburban, and urban – that have disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty. Place-based initiatives take an evidence-based approach, looking at what children, families, and neighborhoods actually need, and providing concrete social services like education programs, family support, community development, and healthcare for those who need it most, changing the trajectory and outcomes for a child's future college and career success. We have seen the impact of Promise Neighborhoods in our rural region of Kentucky. Our Perry Promise increased 3rd grade reading from 29% in the 2020-2021 school year to 47% in the 2021-2022 school year. Our Knox PN was successful before the pandemic of decreasing chronic absenteeism from 20% in 2017 to 13% in 2019. And our Perry Promise increased their college going rate by 9%, from 65% to 74% in the five year period of the PN grant.

Maryland has a strong track record of supporting education projects, including complementary initiatives like the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Passed in 2021, the Blueprint increases education funding to accelerate student outcomes and improve the quality of the state's schools. The ENOUGH Act takes this one step further, deploying a whole-of-community approach, designed to give communities the support and resources needed to uplift children and families, and ultimately combat poverty. The strength of the ENOUGH Act is that it will create critical infrastructure for place-based partnerships, expand access to resources to implement this work throughout Maryland, and set a national example for statewide investments in economic mobility. Furthermore, the ENOUGH Act will align and leverage cross-sector community partners for the equitable distribution of services for children and families; promote systems change by funding and advocating for programs and policy changes across the state; and collect, assess, and share data by working with partner organizations and communities to identify the needs within neighborhoods, implement evidence-based solutions, and use data to continuously improve programs.

And notably, this bill is intentional about ensuring that the voices of those closest to the problem are centered in finding a solution. A key part of the ENOUGH Act entails working with community organizations, non-profits, anchor institutions, and other key community members to develop locally-focused, targeted plans of action to address poverty.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically support the ENOUGH Act and believe it will be a national example for states around the country in the fight against child poverty. Maryland is already the proud home to many businesses and has one of the best hospital networks in the nation. The infrastructure exists for them to be successful and when combined with additional outside funding, can be a model for the nation.

We know that a child's ability to access opportunities that allow for social and economic mobility is contingent on them growing up in strong and supportive homes in thriving communities. The ENOUGH Act is the kind of all-hands-on-deck, whole-of-government approach that is critical to

transforming communities and building a future where no child's potential is limited by their zip code. Through the ENOUGH Act, Maryland will invest in local and regional place-based networks that are equity focused, data-driven, and have the capacity to identify the highest needs within the most under-resourced neighborhoods.

By passing this legislation, we will unlock the promise of all Maryland children, placing them on a path to academic success while also strengthening families, fostering community engagement, and instilling civic pride.

Partners for Rural Impact urges the passage of the ENOUGH Act and is grateful for the opportunity to express our strong approval of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Shane Garver
Vice President of Strategic Impact
Partners for Rural Impact

Anne Arundel County _FAV_SB482.pdf

Uploaded by: Steuart Pittman

Position: FAV



March 1, 2024

Senate Bill 482

**Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations,
Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program
(ENOUGH Act of 2024)**

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 482 – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024).

For decades, historically marginalized communities have dealt with the hardship of poverty, which has led to devastating outcomes including underfunded schools, limited economic opportunity, and high crime rates. Due to lack of investment and resources, these negative outcomes permeate generation after generation. This is a critical time where we have the opportunity to make real change in the lives of families who work tirelessly to provide the best future for their children, and we cannot miss the moment.

Anne Arundel County supports Governor Moore's initiative to tackle generational poverty in Maryland as a necessary and top priority, and we believe that Senate Bill 482 is a bold step forward in these efforts. Provisions in this legislation include establishing the Governor's Office for Children, creating the ENOUGH Grant Program, and requiring \$15 million in the FY25 budget and \$15 million mandated in FY26. The program will serve communities where 20 percent or more children live in poverty, partner with community-based organizations that work directly with low-income families, and assist in funding strategic plans that are being implemented to address poverty in different jurisdictions. Places like Brooklyn Park, which has the highest rates of poverty, crime, and substance abuse in Anne Arundel County, would be able to receive funding for a new community center with the purpose of providing financial support, mental health services, and workforce development training, among many other socioeconomic needs.

Poverty hits every community differently, but we can tackle this challenge if we come together as lawmakers and enact policies that value the marginalized, lift up the underserved, and revitalize forgotten communities. We need an all-hands-on-deck approach, and we believe the Moore Administration is moving Maryland in the right direction. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 482.



Steuart Pittman
County Executive

Travis Simon - SEIU Locall 500 - Enough Act - Supp

Uploaded by: Travis Simon

Position: FAV



**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!

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

SB482 fav MARFY.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyahna Arnold

Position: FAV



March 1, 2024

**Senate Bill 482- Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments,
and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program
Education, Energy, and the Environment**

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) is an association of private child caring organizations providing foster care, group homes, and other services through more than 200 programs across Maryland. The members of MARFY represent providers who serve Maryland's most vulnerable children who are in out of home placements due to abuse, neglect or severe mental health, and medical needs. We operate group homes, treatment foster care programs and independent living programs, primarily serving the foster care population as well as a juvenile services population.

MARFY writes to support Senate Bill 482, pivotal legislation, under stewardship of the Governor's Office for Children and the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children, which represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to combat child poverty through comprehensive, community-driven strategies. The program is designed to enable family-sustaining income and offer robust support for children with disabilities, child welfare, and justice-involved and young adults.

Furthermore, this legislation outlines a clear framework for the ENOUGH Grant Program, which includes neighborhood and regional implementation grants, as well as planning grants to build local organizational capacity. This tiered approach ensures that communities most in need—those with over 20% of children living in poverty—are prioritized and that grants are awarded in a manner that reflects the geographic diversity of our state. The level of transparency in accountability within this legislation is crucial for the continuous improvement of the program

and for ensuring that funds are used effectively to make a tangible difference in the lives of Maryland's children.

Overall, investing in our children is an investment in the future of our state. The ENOUGH Act of 2024 is a bold and necessary step towards breaking the cycle of poverty and building a stronger, more equitable Maryland for all. **It is for these reasons we politely ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 482.**

For more information call or email:

Therese M. Hessler | 301-503-2576 | therese@ashlargr.com

1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2500, Baltimore, MD 21211 410-727-6367
| www.marylandnonprofits.org



Maryland Association of
Resources for Families & Youth

SB 482 - State Board - SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Zachary Hands

Position: FAV

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

DATE: March 1, 2024

POSITION: Support

Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would like to express our support for **SB 482**, which reestablishes the Governor's Office for Children, creates a Special Secretary for that Office, and introduces the ENOUGH Grant Program to provide support to identified communities experiencing a high proportion of children living in poverty in all parts of Maryland.

The State Board and MSDE strongly support this focused effort to combat childhood poverty in our State. This approach is consistent with ongoing initiatives to ensure that every child in Maryland has access to a world-class education, such as the investment in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, by providing necessary resources to address concentrations of poverty and historically underfunded school communities.

We view this initiative as taking a holistic approach to lifting children and families out of generational poverty and will offer direct support alongside many of the efforts underway to produce major transformation in our school systems. MSDE welcomes the opportunity to collaborate and partner with communities and other agencies through this program to strengthen opportunities for children and families and build stronger communities with education institutions as key anchors.

We look forward to partnering and coordinating with the Governor's Office of Children on the ENOUGH Grant Program and other strategic statewide initiatives.

The State Board and MSDE request a favorable committee report on **SB 482**. Please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Education Policy, and Government Relations, at Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov or at 410-767-0504 or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or at 443-915-6094, if you would like any additional information.

Carrington 2024 SB482 HB694 ENOUGH Act 2282024.pdf

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FWA



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Integrity.Passion.Results
Since 2008

SB482/HB694 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

SUPPORT W/AMENDMENTS

Carrington & Associates, LLC supports Senate Bill 482/House Bill 694, also known as the ENOUGH Act of 2024, with the following proposed amendments.

Our Managing Director, Darrell Carrington, grew up in Camden, NJ—a city historically grappling with high crime and poverty rates. Darrell was fortunate to have both parents present, instilling high academic, social, and community standards. Acknowledging the timeless truth that "it takes a village to raise a child," Darrell recognizes the vital role of community-based efforts in breaking the cycle of poverty.

We extend our gratitude to the Governor for his steadfast dedication spanning decades in the pursuit of eliminating child poverty at its roots. As the Governor aptly stated, one's birth into poverty should not dictate their destiny to die in poverty. The stark disparities in unemployment, literacy rates, and food insecurity necessitate collective action, and the ENOUGH Act represents a significant stride towards that collective goal.

While we applaud the well-crafted bipartisan legislation, we propose an amendment to ensure that 33% of the appropriation for the bill is specifically allocated to Community Action Agencies already deeply embedded in struggling communities. These agencies, with established wrap-around services and robust partnerships, are well-equipped to utilize the funds effectively. This targeted allocation prevents them from competing with other worthy non-profits, and ensures a seamless integration of services.

This amendment aligns with the bill's contemplation of entities that have been tirelessly working on similar goals for decades. We believe it will allow them to respond more effectively to the increased service requests post-COVID and provide livable wages for their dedicated workforce.

In conclusion, we endorse the ENOUGH Act of 2024 wholeheartedly, recognizing its potential to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children and families in need. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this vital conversation and commend the Governor and all involved for their commitment to creating a brighter future for our communities. We ask for your Favorable report, with the propose amendments, for SB482\HB694.

SB482_LOS with Amendment_Governor's Office for Chi

Uploaded by: Kevin O'Keeffe

Position: FWA



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www.iecchesapeake.com

8751 Freestate Drive
Suite 250
Laurel, MD 20723

March 1, 2024

To: Members of Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Members of Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill (SB) 482 **(with Amendment)** – Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents more than 200 electrical and low voltage businesses who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has approximately 1,000 electrical apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake seeks a **clarifying amendment** about whether it will be able to participate in the ENOUGH Grant Program. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship program throughout Maryland in the electrical industry. IEC Chesapeake currently has approximately 1,000 apprentices. These apprentices develop skills as low voltage workers and electricians and secure high paying jobs in an essential job sector.

[Proposed Amendment Language to SB 482:](#)

[On Page 3, Line 16 strike Organization and replace it with EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS.](#)

IEC Chesapeake wants to participate in the ENOUGH programs' elements of job training and workforce development. Lines 11-12 on Page 4, the legislation states the purpose of ENOUGH grants is to 'Connect Residents to Quality Jobs and In-Demand Occupations.' The electrical industry certainly meets that criteria. IEC Chesapeake seeks the above clarifying amendment.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.





PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SB 482

BY: Independent Electrical Contractors Chesapeake
(To be offered in the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 482
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT #1

On Page 3, Line 16 strike Organization and replace it with EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS.



Letter of Support SB482.pdf

Uploaded by: Kia Holder

Position: FWA



Thursday, February 29, 2024

Re: support for Senate Bill 482, the ENOUGH Act of 2024

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

On behalf of Anne Arundel Community Action Agency, I urge you to support Senate Bill 482, the ENOUGH Act of 2024, with proposed amendments.

The Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency has been the county's designated anti-poverty agency since 1965, with its mission "to assist people living in poverty working to achieve self-sufficiency and economic mobility by collaborating with community partners." Agency programs are a demonstrated pipeline to increase optimal outcomes across several well-being domains.

The key provisions outlined in SB482 present a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to tackling child poverty in our state. The creation of the Governor's Office for Children, led by the Special Secretary, provides a dedicated focal point for addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by children and families.

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. Anne Arundel County's Mariners Point neighborhood has an astonishing 83.9% of child poverty and several other neighborhoods in the county exceed well beyond 20%.

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

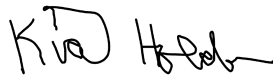
exclusively to existing Community Action Agencies, as identified by the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP). Our agencies have a proven track record of effectively addressing community needs and are well-positioned to implement the objectives outlined in the bill.

These grants should be administered on a competitive basis, with entities following all guidelines established by the Governor's Office for Children. This amendment ensures that funds are directed to experienced organizations that have a history of successfully serving their communities.

We believe that this amendment will enhance the impact of the ENOUGH Act by leveraging the expertise and existing infrastructure of Community Action Agencies, ultimately contributing to a more targeted and efficient implemented program.

In conclusion, we express our support for SB482 - the ENOUGH Act of 2024, with the suggested amendment. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal, as it aims to further strengthen the effectiveness of the legislation. If there is any additional information that I can provide as you consider this bill, I would be happy to help. You can contact me at (410) 626-1900 ext. 1017 or kholder@aaccaa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kia Holder". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Kia Holder, Deputy Program Integrationist
Anne Arundel Community Action Agency
251 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Montgomery County Community Action Board Testimony

Uploaded by: Marc Elrich

Position: FWA



Montgomery County Community Action Board Testimony
SB482: Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions,
Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

March 1, 2024

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

TO: The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair; The Honorable Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Dr. Jeffery Johnson, Chair, Montgomery County Community Action Board

The Montgomery County Community Action Board (CAB), the County's local, state, and federally designated anti-poverty group, is in support of SB482, the ENOUGH Act of 2024, with a proposed amendment.

Child poverty continues to be a widespread concern in Maryland, including in Montgomery County. Twenty-nine Census tracts in the County have a child poverty rate of 20% or higher.¹ The ENOUGH Act's establishment of grants for programs working to reduce child poverty could greatly benefit numerous nonprofit and public agencies here in Montgomery County and across the state.

It is important to note that although The ENOUGH Act focuses on child poverty, the very high cost of living in areas like Montgomery County means that many children in households above the Federal Poverty Level are still struggling. The 2023 Montgomery County Self-Sufficiency Standard, which provides a more accurate measure of the true cost of living, notes that a family of three with one adult, one preschooler, and one school-age child would need an annual income of \$116,864 to cover their basic expenses - over four and half times the Federal Poverty Level.²

Nationwide, Community Action has been a leader in addressing poverty for nearly 60 years and for over 55 years here in Montgomery County. Our own agency has several programs that aim to reduce child poverty. The agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program completed over 1,900 tax returns for lower-income County households last year, reducing child

¹ <https://data.census.gov/>

² https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/MDMontCo2023_SSS.pdf

poverty by connecting clients with \$2,375,603 in Earned Income Tax Credits and \$757,849 in Child Tax Credits.

The TESS Community Action Center continues its 50+ year legacy of connecting residents to essential services using culturally and linguistically specific service delivery. Every month, TESS, along with the agency's new Navigation team, addresses the needs of hundreds of clients, the vast majority of whom are families with children, connecting residents with SNAP, healthcare, housing assistance, child care assistance, and numerous other critical services.

As our board serves as the governing body for Head Start, along with the Head Start Parent Policy Council, we are consistently engaged in providing direct services for eligible children and families. The Montgomery County Head Start Program has addressed the root causes of generational poverty for over 55 years by providing access to education for children and their parents, as well as health and nutrition services, parent involvement opportunities, and access to community resources such as housing, employment, food and social services. With current funding, Head Start/PreK programs serve 3,183 children in lower-income households, but many more children in our community are income-eligible for these programs and remain unserved.

Given Community Action's extensive experience working to reduce poverty in Maryland and across the country, we recommend an amendment to the legislation. **We propose that 50% of the funding allocated for the ENOUGH Act be made available exclusively to 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. We believe that this amendment will enhance the impact of the ENOUGH Act by leveraging the expertise and existing infrastructure of Community Action Agencies, ultimately contributing to a more targeted and efficient implementation of the program.

The Montgomery County Community Action Board strongly supports SB482 with the proposed amendment and asks the Committee for its support.

ENOUGH ACT LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Yard

Position: FWA



Human Services Programs
of Carroll County, Inc.

10 Distillery Drive, Westminster, MD 21157

P. O. Box 489, Westminster, MD 21158

www.hspinc.org

410-857-2999

(F) 410-857-8793

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
syard@hspinc.org



HSP is a 501c3 Tax-Exempt Organization.

UNFAVORABLE.SB482.HB694.LauraBogley.MDRTL.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Bogley

Position: UNF



OPPOSITION STATEMENT

SB482/HB694

ENOUGH Act of 2024

Laura Bogley, JD, Executive Director
Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we urge your amendment or unfavorable report on this bill, that as written would authorize the use of taxpayer funds to issue grants either directly to the abortion industry or indirectly to their network of service providers and community based organizations for the purposes of promoting or coordinating abortion services. We strongly object to the appropriation and use of any public funds for the purposes of abortion. Maryland Right to Life supports policy that recognizes the equal value of each human being regardless of the circumstances of their conception and reminds policymakers that abortion is not a medical treatment and is never medically necessary.

Subsidizing Corporate Abortion - Abortion is big business in Maryland. Maryland taxpayers subsidize the abortion industry in Maryland through direct Maryland Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, through various state grants and contracts, and through pass-through funding in various state programs. Health insurance carriers are required to provide reproductive health coverage to participate with the Maryland Health Choice program. Programs that utilize public funding for abortion, abortion providers or promotion and other abortion-related activities include the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Family Planning Program, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Children's Cabinet, Maryland Council on School Based Health Centers, Maryland Assembly for the Advancement of School Based Health, Community Health Resource Commission, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

Public Funding through Maryland Medicaid - The ***Maryland Medical Assistance Program*** and the ***Maryland Children's Health Program*** (MCHP) are the two primary programs used for publicly funded reimbursements to abortion providers in Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services in their *Analysis of the FY2022 Maryland Executive Budget*, Maryland taxpayers, through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, are being forced to pay for *elective* abortions. We spent at least **\$6.5 million for 9,864 abortions, less than 10 of those abortions were due to rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.**

The state is now circumventing the legislature and the will of the people by using the closed-door regulatory process to allocate **an additional \$12 million in public funding** to implement the Abortion Care Access Act of 2022. (See attached MDRTL letter.)

Medical Assistance Expenditures on Abortion Language attached to the Medicaid budget since 1979 authorizes the use of State funds to pay for abortions under specific circumstances. Specifically, a physician or surgeon must certify that, based on his or her professional opinion, the procedure is necessary. Similar language has been attached to the appropriation for **MCHP** since its advent in fiscal 1999.

Maryland Family Planning Program – In 2019 (HB1272) the Maryland General Assembly passed the “Planned Parenthood Bail-Out” bill to force Maryland taxpayers to provide an additional \$3.2 million (plus 4% annual increase) in annual compensation to family planning providers who refused to comply with federal Title X funding requirements. These providers failed to qualify for federal funding after they refused to physically separate their abortion operations from their family planning services.

Community Health Resource Commission - In 2020, the *Community Health Resource Commission* awarded two Covid relief grants to Planned Parenthood in the amount of **\$76,895**. Planned Parenthood clinics were exempted from Governor Hogan’s closure orders as “essential services”. Delegate Cullison has served as an ex officio member of the Council and has sponsored several bills to expand public funding for the abortion industry particularly in schools.

MDH is Failing Pregnant Women - The Maryland Department of Health has consistently failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and appropriations should be withheld until the Department provides the annual report to the Centers for Disease Control to measure the number of abortions committed each year in Maryland, abortion reasons, funding sources and related health complications or injuries.

- The Department has routinely failed to enforce existing state health and safety regulations of abortion clinics, even after two women were near fatally injured in botched abortions.
- The Department has routinely failed to provide women with information and access to abortion alternatives, including the Maryland Safe Haven Program (see Department of Human Services), affordable adoption programs or referral to quality prenatal care and family planning services that do not promote abortion.
- The Department has demonstrated systemic bias in favor of abortion providers, engaging in active partnerships with Planned Parenthood and other abortion organizations to

develop and implement public programs, curriculum and training. In doing so the Department is failing to provide medically accurate information on pregnancy and abortion.

- The Department systemically discriminates against any reproductive health and educational providers who are unwilling to promote abortion and in doing so, suppresses pro-life speech and action in community-based programs and public education.
- The Department fails to collect, aggregate and report data about abortion and the correlation between abortion and maternal mortality, maternal injury, subsequent pre-term birth, miscarriage and infertility.
- The Department is failing to protect the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of freedom of conscience and religion for health care workers, contributing to the scarcity of medical professions and personnel in Maryland.
- The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex trafficking by waiving reporting requirements for abortionists, waiving mandatory reporter requirements for abortionists, and failing to regulate abortion practices.

Abortion is not Health Care - Abortion is NOT health care and is never medically necessary. Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women. Abortion is the exploitation of women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. Abortion is the leading cause of death among Black Americans and has become American genocide. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of all time.

No Public Funding - Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayers to fund abortions. There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 60% percent of those surveyed in a January 2023 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

Invest in Life - 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds should not be diverted from but prioritized for health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mothers and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.

Funding Restrictions are Constitutional - The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. The Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that

“no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life”, and held that there is “no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.”

Pregnancy is not a Disease - The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women’s healthcare. Women have better options for family planning and well woman care, in fact there are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland.

Abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of a woman - In the rare case of severe pregnancy complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to sustain the lives of both. This is different from an abortion, which involves the purposeful termination of fetal human life. Prior to the Supreme Court’s imposition of their decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the Maryland legislature had enacted a ban on abortion and only would allow exception for the physical life of the mother, if two physicians agreed that termination of the pregnancy was necessary to avoid the imminent death of the mother. Science has advanced beyond this point to support that both lives can be saved.

Abortion is Black Genocide - Abortion has reached epidemic proportions among people of color with half of all pregnancies of Black women ending in abortion. It is believed that nearly half of all pregnancies of Black women end in abortion. As a result, Black Americans are no longer the leading minority population, dropping second to the Hispanic population. People of color have long been targeted for elimination through sterilization and abortion by eugenicists like Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger. Even today, 78% of abortion clinics are located in Minority communities. As a result abortion has become the leading killer of Black lives. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of our time and as a civilized people we cannot continue to justify or subsidize this genocide. For more information please see www.BlackGenocide.org.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to preserve the otherwise legitimate purposes of this bill by amending it to exclude taxpayer funding of abortion or abortion providers. We appeal to you to prioritize the state’s interest in human life and restore to all people, our natural and Constitutional rights to life, liberty, freedom of speech and religion.

SB0482.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Duffy

Position: UNF

HB0694 and now SB0482 **will ensure more living on the dole and a “cradle to grave” welfare existence.** Let’s reward more people for unproductive living. HB0694/SB0482 is everything wrong with big government and dependency on it. Something’s gotta give to wake people up. **This money will help no one in need, it will only pad the pockets of ‘nonprofits’.** **\$15,000,000 could solve a ton of problems, but will it? \$15,000,000 in ‘grants’ will make NGO’s richer at the people’s expense.**

JUST SAY NO to the fleecing of Maryland and its citizens via SB0482. It seems our government would rather perpetuate problems than honestly solve them. What we are watching across America (USA) from open borders, to violence and crime escalating, to our children getting dumber via our failed education system, to most people having to work 2 or more jobs to buy groceries or gas via the hyperinflation (which is happening under a fluffed up corrupt system); why would anyone on the LEFT or RIGHT believe this will help everyday people? **AGAIN, it won’t.**

Suzanne Price
AACo, MD

What is an NGO:

non-governmental organization

NGO stands for **non-governmental organization**. While there is no universally agreed-upon definition of an NGO, typically it is a voluntary group or institution with a social (**socialism**) mission, which operates independently from the government (**though they work hand in hand**). NGOs or similar organizations exist in all parts of the world.