



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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Since 2006

Support for SB666 – Funding for Community Action Agencies

Chairman Barnes and Members of the Committee,

Carrington & Associates, LLC proudly represents the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP). However, beyond our professional advocacy, our Managing Director, Darrell Carrington, has a deep personal connection to the work of Community Action Agencies (CAAs). During his first five years in Maryland, he managed many of the very programs CAAs operate today. Additionally, during his tenure at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, where he was honored as the youngest recipient of the prestigious President's Award for Excellence in Administration, a lifetime achievement award, his work at Rutgers helped establish the New Jersey Nutrition Education Support Network—now under NJ SNAP as SNAP-Ed—expanding access to nutritious food and providing critical resources for low-income families to prepare healthy meals on limited budgets.

Beyond policy and program development, Mr. Carrington has actively engaged in efforts to highlight the challenges of food insecurity, including participation in the nationally acclaimed Rowell \$13 Dollar a Day Challenge, demonstrating the daily struggle of feeding a family on an extremely limited budget. As someone who grew up in Camden, NJ—one of the nation's most impoverished and high-crime cities—he understands firsthand the hardships families face navigating these complex systems while striving to escape poverty. The work of CAAs is not just about services; it is about providing hope and real pathways to self-sufficiency.

We extend our gratitude to Senator Guzzone and the Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee for their leadership in advancing this bill through the Senate. It is important to recognize that while the fiscal note for SB666 has been reduced, the need in our communities far exceeds the proposed funding. CAAs have long been asked to do more with less, and as we anticipate reductions in the federal workforce—many of which will directly impact Maryland—these organizations will be relied upon even more to fill critical gaps in support.

Regardless of party affiliation, when constituents seek assistance for energy bills, food security, rental aid, or childcare, CAAs are often the first call. They serve as the frontline resource for families in crisis, ensuring that basic needs are met and pathways to stability are available. This bill represents a crucial first step in establishing state funding for these essential organizations and the dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to uplift our most vulnerable residents.

For all these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB666.

Sincerely,
Carrington & Associates, LLC

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