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Position Statement in Support of Senate Bill 234

The Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) strongly supports Senate Bill 234, which establishes a Homeless Services Certification Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring that organizations providing homeless services meet established standards of care, accountability, and effectiveness. By creating a structured certification process, the bill will enhance the quality and coordination of services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, fostering a more comprehensive and sustainable response to this urgent issue.

Homelessness remains a significant challenge across Maryland, impacting vulnerable populations who require targeted and efficient support. The establishment of a Homeless Services Certification Program will help standardize best practices among service providers, ensuring that those in need receive high-quality assistance regardless of where they seek help. Additionally, certification will provide a framework for assessing and improving service delivery, leading to better long-term outcomes for individuals transitioning out of homelessness.

MCAP was founded in 1986 to unify and strengthen the efforts of Maryland's Community Action Agencies, which have been on the frontlines of the fight against poverty for decades. These agencies serve as a vital safety net, offering holistic, community-driven solutions that empower families to achieve self-sufficiency. Senate Bill 234 aligns with MCAP's mission by reinforcing the state's commitment to supporting evidence-based interventions that address the root causes of homelessness and poverty.

By passing Senate Bill 234, Maryland will take a decisive step toward improving the efficacy and accessibility of homeless services statewide. This legislation will not only enhance accountability but also encourage innovation in service delivery, ensuring that Maryland's most vulnerable residents receive the comprehensive support they need to rebuild their lives. MCAP urges the legislature to enact this bill and reaffirm its dedication to strengthening families, reducing homelessness, and fostering an inclusive, equitable Maryland.

If you would like any additional information regarding how this legislation will positively affect our member agencies, please contact Angela Martin, Executive Director, MCAP, at amartin@maryland-cap.org. Thank you for your consideration and we request a favorable report.