



## Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Jewish Community Relations Council  
of Greater Washington

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,  
Inc.

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action  
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

## Marylanders Against Poverty

Abby Snyder, Co-Chair

P: (240) 593-6121

E: [ASnyder@baltjc.org](mailto:ASnyder@baltjc.org)

Anne Wallerstedt, Co-Chair

P: (410) 991-7285

E: [AWallerstedt@mdfoodbank.org](mailto:AWallerstedt@mdfoodbank.org)

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT/OPPOSITION OF SB 226

### MARYLAND FARMS AND FAMILIES FUND – PURPOSE AND USE – ALTERATIONS

*Senate Finance Committee*

**January 30, 2025**

**Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports SB 226**, which aims to improve the efficiency of the Maryland Market Money program by streamlining the administration of program funds by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and eliminating unnecessary administrative burdens during the implementation process.

The Maryland Market Money (MMM) program is a statewide initiative run by Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), which provides a dollar-for-dollar match for purchases made using federal nutrition benefits – such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and WIC – at participating Maryland farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs.

This program not only helps to strengthen local economies by ensuring federal dollars directly support local Maryland farmers and agricultural producers, but it also helps to improve access to healthy food options for Marylanders struggling with food insecurity by doubling their purchasing power.

Currently, the implementation process for MMM requires funds to be administered through a grant application, which imposes significant administrative burdens on both SMADC and MDA. This process limits the program's efficiency and diverts valuable time and resources away from its purpose—supporting access to healthy food for low-income Maryland families.

SB 226 will simplify this process by eliminating the need for a grant application and simply allowing MDA to directly administer funds to a nonprofit partner of their choosing. Streamlining this process for Maryland Market Money will help ensure that MDA and SMADC can continue their partnership with less administrative hurdles and ensuring that more resources are focused on helping families access fresh, affordable food while supporting local farmers.

**MAP appreciates your consideration and requests the committee provide a favorable report on SB 226.**

*Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.*