



*Maryland Association of*  
**LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS**

February 24, 2026

Senator Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
3 West Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**FAVORABLE SUPPORT – SB 668 Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards**

Dear Chair Guzzone & Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

My name is Kim Eisenreich, and I serve as Chair of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards and Administrator of the Howard County Office of the Local Children's Board, Howard's Local Management Board. On behalf of the Association, I am here in support of SB 668 Increased funds for the Children's Cabinet Fund for Local Management Boards.

Maryland's Local Management Board structure is a unique and nationally recognized model. We are supported by a State Children's Cabinet, a coordinating office within the Governor's Office for Children, and 24 local children's boards that mirror the state cabinet at the community level. This structure strengthens interagency coordination, elevates local voice, and ensures that state investments reach the children and families they are intended to serve.

In the early 2000s, Local Management Boards were funded at approximately \$47 million statewide. More than two decades later, that investment has fallen to just \$21 million to serve all 24 jurisdictions across Maryland, a period marked by rising poverty, diminished federal resources, and a sharply increased cost of living. The impact of this decline is felt regardless of geography. Allocations range from just over \$3 million in Baltimore City to slightly above \$300,000 in Somerset County, yet both communities experience among the highest poverty rates in the state. Whether urban, suburban or rural, addressing entrenched poverty requires sustained, resource-intensive strategies, coordinated services, prevention programs, and long-term family supports that cannot be implemented or scaled with current funding levels. This erosion of purchasing power has left Local Management Boards without the capacity to meet the magnitude of need, underscoring the necessity of renewed investment to achieve meaningful, statewide impact.

While federal funding landscape remains uncertain, and reductions continue to place additional strain on state and local systems. Local Management Boards have consistently demonstrated that we are nimble, innovative, and strategic. We leverage partnerships, braid funding, and create efficiencies across agencies and community stakeholders to maximize impact. These qualities are just as critical today as they were when the model was created. We can transform outcomes for Maryland's children, youth, and families, but the challenges facing our communities are mounting, and local capacity must keep pace.



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Local Management Boards carry a significant responsibility: meeting the needs of Maryland's most vulnerable children, youth, and families at a time when service gaps and community challenges are expanding. We respectfully urge you to support SB 668, which incrementally increases the Children's Cabinet Fund over the next four fiscal years to reach \$30 million.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important investment in Maryland's children and families.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Eisenreich  
Chair  
Association of Local Management Boards