



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

February 25, 2025

SUPPORT – SB518 - Maryland Financial Empowerment Center Network Pilot Program - Establishment

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **SB518 - Maryland Financial Empowerment Center Network Pilot Program - Establishment** to establish a network of financial empowerment centers across the state. Through this program, Marylanders would be able to receive one-on-one financial counseling and information on how to increase savings, pay down debt, access banking, and improve credit scores.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland work in low income neighborhoods to address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. Families are increasingly struggling with exorbitant rents or utility bills and an ever increasing wage gap. They are juggling multiple bills every month. HB0676 will give the opportunity for families to have access to counseling to address their individual financial needs. This will expand access to those who do not have bank accounts.

We urge you to support SB518 - Maryland Financial Empowerment Center Network Pilot Program - Establishment to create financial empowerment centers to provide one-on-one financial counseling.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair