

MALMB Letter of Support - SB 668.pdf

Uploaded by: Addison Pruitt

Position: FAV



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,

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards (MALMB), representing all 24 Local Management Boards (LMBs across Maryland’s counties and Baltimore City), thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to Maryland’s children, youth, and families. Local Management Boards serve as the state’s local collaboration hubs—neutral conveners that bring together education, health, housing, workforce, behavioral health, juvenile services, and community-based organizations to address complex challenges facing families. Through local needs assessments, asset mapping, and coordinated strategies, LMBs ensure that state and local investments reach those who need them most, efficiently and equitably.

We write to respectfully request a multi-year investment to restore funding to the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF), the primary funding source that supports all 24 LMBs statewide. Since 2011, CCIF funding has declined from \$47 million to approximately \$21 million in FY2026—despite significant growth in demand, responsibilities, and complexity of need. This funding level is now spread thin across every jurisdiction and is no longer sustainable. To stabilize and strengthen this essential infrastructure, MALMB requests a phased, multi-year investment as follows:

- **A \$3 million increase in FY2027**
- **A \$2 million increase in FY2028, FY2029, and FY2030**

This approach would restore CCIF funding to \$30 million by FY2030 and provide predictable, sustainable support for local systems serving Maryland’s most vulnerable children and families. The impact of LMBs is both measurable and proven. Prior to the pandemic, LMBs served more than 212,000 Marylanders statewide. During the pandemic, that number surged to over 530,000 individuals—a 150 percent increase. While emergency conditions have eased, the elevated need has not. Economic pressures, federal funding uncertainty, and persistent inequities continue to

place extraordinary demand on local systems. Notably, LMBs leverage approximately \$3 in value for every \$1 of state investment, maximizing the impact of limited public dollars.

Increased CCIF funding would directly advance Maryland's broader policy goals, including long-term implementation of the ENOUGH Act, by strengthening local capacity to reduce child poverty and expand economic mobility. Additional funding would also support innovation and modernization through local dashboards and real-time data tools, expand youth development and mentoring initiatives, enhance cross-system collaboration, and ensure equitable access to services for rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. Just as importantly, it would preserve the flexibility and rapid-response capacity that proved essential during the pandemic and remains critical as new challenges emerge.

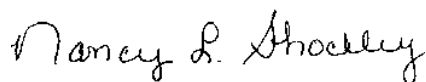
We recognize the fiscal challenges that the state is navigating in this budget cycle. However, investing in LMBs is an investment in Maryland's future—one that helps reduce child poverty, enhance economic mobility, and strengthen our communities. We urge you to support this request for an additional \$3 million in FY2027 and a phased multiyear investment through FY2030 to ensure we can continue delivering vital services to Maryland's children, youth, and families.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and to continue partnering with your Administration to build a stronger, more equitable Maryland.

Sincerely,



Kim Eisenreich
MD Association of Local
Management Boards, Co-Chair

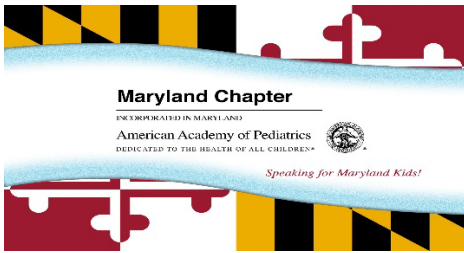


Nancy Shockley
MD Association of Local
Management Boards, Co-Chair

SB0668_FAV_MDAAP_Children's Cabinet Fund - Renamin

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

February 24, 2026

Senate Bill 668 – *Children's Cabinet Fund – Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 668. Senate Bill 668 proposes to rename the Children's Cabinet Fund as the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund, requiring dedicated state appropriations for local grants, and establish clear funding expectations for fiscal years 2028-2031.

Renaming the fund appropriately reflects its expanded purpose of improving coordination across state agencies that serve children and families. Pediatricians see firsthand how children's health outcomes are shaped not only by medical care, but also by education, behavioral health services, child welfare systems, housing stability, nutrition, and family support.

Fragmented systems lead to delays in care, duplication of services, and preventable harm. A clearly defined interagency fund underscores the State's commitment to breaking down silos and advancing a coordinated, child-centered approach to policy and service delivery. Effective cross-agency collaboration improves early identification of developmental delays, strengthens behavioral health access, enhances school readiness, and reduces long-term healthcare costs.

This legislation ensures that, beginning in designated future fiscal years, the Governor must include a dedicated appropriation to the renamed fund in the annual state budget. These funds will support grants to Local Management Boards (LMBs), which play a vital role in coordinating services for children, youth, and families at the community level. Pediatricians routinely partner with local systems of care, including schools, behavioral health providers, social services agencies, and youth programs, that rely on LMB coordination.

The bill's phased and increasing funding targets provide essential stability and accountability. By setting clear appropriation expectations for fiscal years 2028-2031 and specifying that these grants are in addition to, not a replacement of existing LMB funding, the legislation protects current services while enabling meaningful expansion. This legislation strengthens interagency collaboration, ensures dedicated and growing state investment in local coordination, and reinforces the infrastructure that supports children and families. We respectfully urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

Andrew G. Vetter

410-244-7000

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Uploaded by: Dawn Luedtke

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 668, *Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards*

Dear Chair Guzzone,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 668, *Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards*.

If enacted, SB 668 would require the Governor, for fiscal years 2028 through 2031, to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill to the Fund to be used for grants to the local management boards, ensuring a predictable funding stream to carry out this work. Additionally, the bill would rename the Children's Cabinet Fund to be the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund, emphasizing the cooperative nature of the Fund's work.

The name change reflects the multi-disciplinary approach that enshrines a whole-community, whole-government approach to align, coordinate, and maximize Maryland's investment in children. Coordinating on shared goals will help to break down siloes and allow the Fund to fully leverage power and resources to support children and local communities.

The required investment ensures that the Fund is able to act strategically, utilizing a long-term vision to unlock potential and boost opportunity. Investing in our children is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. It means investing in our families, communities, and collective future.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 668. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Luedtke".

Dawn Luedtke
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7

2026 Senate SB668 LMB Testimony_Family League.pdf

Uploaded by: Demaune Millard

Position: FAV



OF BALTIMORE

t 410.662.5500

1734 Maryland Avenue, 3rd Floor

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familyleague.org

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

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

To: Chair Guy J. Guzzone, Vice-Chair James C. Rosapepe, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

From: Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League

Date: February 20, 2025

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am Demaune Millard, President and CEO for Family League of Baltimore—City of Baltimore's Local Management Board (LMB) and a proud member of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards (MALMB). I am here today in strong support of SB 668, and honored to stand alongside my fellow MALMB members from Howard, Dorchester, and Anne Arundel Counties in offering this unified voice.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) is a leading family-resources organization serving Baltimore, connecting thousands of families with services, support, and advocacy to raise healthy, thriving children. We bring together schools, health systems, housing agencies, workforce partners, behavioral health providers, and community-based organizations to make sure that families in Baltimore's most under-resourced neighborhoods don't fall through the cracks. In a city where one in three children live in poverty – more than 30,000 children – this coordination is not optional. It is essential.

The results of this work are measurable. Through our partnerships and braided funding model – combining Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF) dollars with city appropriations, philanthropic investment, and federal resources – Family League generates more than \$2 in total community value for every \$1 of state investment. Statewide, Maryland's 24 LMBs collectively leverage \$3 for every \$1 invested. That is not just efficient government – that is government that works.

A NAME THAT MATCHES THE MISSION, FUNDING THAT MEETS THE MOMENT

And yet, the core funding that sustains this infrastructure has been quietly eroding for over a decade. Since 2011, the CCIF has been cut from \$47 million to approximately \$21 million in FY2026 – more than 55% reduction – even as the demand for services has grown dramatically. During the pandemic, LMBs statewide served over 530,000 Marylanders, a 150% surge from pre-pandemic levels. The elevated need has not receded. Economic pressures, persistent inequity, and now federal funding uncertainty are placing extraordinary strain on local systems across every jurisdiction in this state.

SB 668 addresses both the structural and symbolic dimensions of this challenge. Renaming CCIF to more accurately reflect its purpose as a direct grant fund for LMBs is a meaningful signal – it clarifies what this money does and who it serves. But more critically, this bill charts a phased path to restore funding toward \$30 million by FY2030, beginning with a \$3 million increase in FY2027. This is not a new program. It is an investment in proven infrastructure that already exists in all 24 jurisdictions, serving Maryland's most vulnerable children and families.

In Baltimore, this funding directly advances the Governor's ENOUGH Act, which Family League helps implement across the city's highest-poverty neighborhoods – Cherry Hill, Park Heights, Greater Mondawmin, Southwest Baltimore, and beyond. We support grantees who are doing the hard, place-based work of transforming neighborhoods. We build their capacity. We connect them to data and resources. We

quarterback cross-sector collaboration. None of that coordination is possible without a sustainable funding floor, and that floor is what SB 668 begins to restore.

Governor Moore has said that to fully address poverty, you need to engage the people on the ground. LMBs are how the state does exactly that – in every county and in Baltimore. We are not overhead. We are the administrative backbone and infrastructure that makes every other investment go further.

I urge this Committee to move for a favorable report on SB 668. Fund the work that is already working. Invest in the infrastructure that communities across Maryland depend on. The children of Baltimore – and every jurisdiction in this state – deserve nothing less.

Respectfully submitted,

Demaune A. Millard
President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore
Baltimore City Local Management Board Member,
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards

Ian Written Testimony - SB 668.pdf

Uploaded by: Ian Wright-Williams

Position: FAV

February 24, 2026



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

Re: Support for Senate Bill 668 - Funding for Local Management Boards

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing my testimony today in support of Senate Bill 668 to increase funding for the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund.

My name is Ian Wright-Williams and I am a senior athlete at Oakland Mills High School and student intern in Howard County and today, I’d like to share how CCIF funding has impacted my life and my community.

1. Leadership & Youth Voice

- One of the issues I care about most is making sure young people have a real seat at the table. Through my leadership opportunity with the Howard County Local Management Board, I have been able to help develop the HoCo Youth Council to uplift youth voices in the planning of local priorities. Too often, decisions are made about young people without young people being present. Being part of this work has allowed me to advocate for students across the county and ensure that our experiences shape policies and programs. I have also benefited from participating in various trainings focused on equity and access to mental health. These trainings expanded my understanding of the barriers many youth face and strengthened my ability to advocate for inclusive solutions. Additionally, projects like graphic design for t-shirts, coding initiatives, and community focus groups have allowed me to apply creative and technical skills in meaningful ways.

2. Workforce Development

- Workforce development is another issue I am passionate about because economic opportunity directly impacts stability, education, and long-term success. Through the department’s paid internship program, I have gained hands-on experience that prepares me for a meaningful career. I’ve developed skills in communication, collaboration, project planning, and professional accountability.

3. Mentorship & Long-Term Support

- Mentorship is essential to youth success, and I have seen both the impact and the gaps that still exist. I’ve had the opportunity to review applications for youth mentorship programs and That reality showed me how great the need is—and how important it is to expand these opportunities. Through staff and board members, I have gained

access to mentorship that goes beyond advice. I've built professional relationships and connections that will last a lifetime. These relationships have helped me grow personally and professionally, and they have shown me what it looks like to lead with purpose.

Local Management Boards serve as the state's local collaboration hubs—neutral conveners that bring together **education, health, housing, workforce, behavioral health, juvenile services, and community-based organizations** to address complex challenges facing families. Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and to continue partnering with your Administration to build a stronger, more equitable Maryland.

Sincerely,



Ian Wright-Williams
Youth Intern
Howard County Local Children's Board

SB0668-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Karrington Anderson

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 668

Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 24, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 668. This bill strengthens Maryland's commitment to children and families by renaming the Children's Cabinet Fund and establishing a dedicated, increasing funding stream for grants to Local Management Boards (LMBs).

This bill requires annual appropriations above the prior fiscal year's level, \$3 million in FY 2028 and a \$2 million increase in each of the following three fiscal years, ensuring that investments grow to meet rising needs. Maryland's 24 Local Management Boards are a vital component of community-based collaboration. Active in every jurisdiction, LMBs function as quasi-authorities of local government, bringing together schools, nonprofits, service providers, and county leaders to coordinate child- and family-serving programs. They are uniquely positioned to identify local needs and deploy resources strategically and efficiently.

LMBs support a wide range of initiatives that strengthen communities, including reducing youth homelessness and child hunger, mitigating the impact of incarceration on families, and preventing costly out-of-state residential placements. These efforts not only improve outcomes for children but also reduce long-term costs to state and local governments.

Despite growing responsibilities, State support has not kept pace. The Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund has declined from \$47 million in 2011 to just \$21 million in 2026. At the same time, demand for services has surged. During the pandemic alone, LMBs served more than 530,000 Marylanders, more than double pre-pandemic levels, demonstrating both their reach and their critical importance.

SB 668 represents a measured approach to rebuilding this essential funding stream. By establishing predictable, incremental increases, the bill provides stability to local partners while reinforcing the State's commitment to coordinated, community-based solutions. For these reasons, MACo respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 668.

SB668SponsorTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin M. Harris

Position: FAV

KEVIN M. HARRIS
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's
Counties

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony in Support of SB668
Children's Cabinet Fund – Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards
February 24, 2024

Chair Guzzone, Vice-chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

The Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund is tasked with providing resources to local management boards to strengthen community-based services for children and families. Local management boards have taken on the critical work of preventing youth violence, providing mental and behavioral health services, supporting workforce development, confronting poverty, and supporting early childhood education and school readiness. To achieve the organization's goals, local management boards conduct local needs assessments, map assets, identify gaps and strategies, provide funding for the most vulnerable, and provide rapid response during crises.

The work of Maryland's local management boards is necessary and contemporary as the state confronts child poverty, hunger, and housing affordability. The money in the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund enables this important work.

Unfortunately, the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund had its funding slashed from \$47 million in 2011 and funds never returned to previous levels. Funding currently sits around \$21 million. Demand for the work of our local management boards has grown dramatically, as has the cost of operation. Additional funding is needed to meet the needs of vulnerable Maryland children and families.

SB668: Children's Cabinet Fund – Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards, requires that the governor include in the annual budget bill the following appropriations for the fund to be used for grants to eligible local management boards:

- For fiscal year 2028, \$3,000,000.
- For fiscal years 2029-2031, \$2,000,000 annually.

Additionally, SB668 will change the statutory name of the Children's Cabinet Fund to the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund. Maryland government websites already reflect this name change.

I respectfully request a favorable committee report on SB668, so that Maryland's children and families can receive the support they need to not just survive, but thrive.

SB668_Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kim Eisenreich

Position: FAV



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.



Maryland Association of
LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

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

TFT FAV SB 668 - Children's Cabinet Fund - Renamin

Uploaded by: Stacey Brown

Position: FAV

TO: Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

RE: Support – Senate Bill 668 - Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards

DATE: 2-24-26

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members,

The Family Tree strongly supports Senate Bill 668, which renames the Children's Cabinet Fund to the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund and codifies increased state appropriations dedicated to grants for local management boards (LMBs). This bill is a meaningful investment in community-based systems of care that align with our mission to strengthen families, prevent crisis, and connect children and parents to needed supports.

The Family Tree is a Baltimore City-based nonprofit that provides family strengthening services, early childhood support, parent education, and community partnerships that empower children and caregivers to thrive. Our work regularly intersects with local management boards, which play a central role in coordinating cross-sector services and filling gaps in supports for at-risk families.

Sustained and predictable funding for community needs is critical, SB 668 requires the Governor to include dedicated appropriations for the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund for grant awards to LMBs across multiple fiscal years. This funding model:

- Enhances stability and predictability for local providers.
- Enables strategic planning for program expansion and evaluation.
- Reduces disruptions in services that families rely upon.

Local management boards bring together government, nonprofits, educators, health providers, and families to align services across sectors. This integrative approach:

- Promotes early intervention, reducing the need for costly crisis-oriented services.
- Improves access to family support, behavioral health, and youth development programs.
- Elevates community voice in decision-making.

By prioritizing LMB grants, the State signals a commitment to equity-focused, evidence-based strategies that reflect local needs — whether in urban centers like Baltimore City or rural jurisdictions. SB 668's funding framework lays the groundwork for data-driven improvements and better long-term outcomes for children and families.

The Family Tree urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 668 a favorable report. This legislation strengthens the infrastructure that supports coordinated, locally driven services for children and families across Maryland. Investing in the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund and the capacity of



local management boards prioritizes prevention, community health, and family stability — outcomes that are foundational to thriving communities.

For these reasons, **The Family Tree urges a favorable report on SB668.** Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Brown, M.Ed, LCPC
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