



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1000/HB1300

### Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation

#### *Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs*

#### *Budget and Taxation*

#### *Appropriations*

#### *Ways and Means*

*February 17, 2020*

*Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Margo Quinlan, Co-Chairs*

### **Member Agencies:**

Advocates for Children and Youth  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
Behavioral Health System Baltimore  
CASH Campaign of Maryland  
Catholic Charities  
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland  
Family League of Baltimore  
Fuel Fund of Maryland  
Health Care for the Homeless  
Homeless Persons  
Representation Project  
Job Opportunities Task Force  
League of Women Voters of Maryland  
Loyola University Maryland  
Maryland Catholic Conference  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Maryland Community Action  
Partnership  
Maryland Family Network  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Paul's Place  
Public Justice Center  
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore  
Welfare Advocates

### **Marylanders Against Poverty**

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**Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports Senate Bill 1000/House Bill 1300 because adequate, equitable investment in public education is an anti-poverty strategy.** MAP is particularly supportive of provisions of the Blueprint which ensure additional resources, supports, and services for children living in economically disinvested communities and dealing with the impacts of concentrated poverty.

Students, families, and communities in every jurisdiction of Maryland stand to benefit from the passage of the Kirwan Commission's recommendations into law. For years, Maryland has funded public education in a regressive manner, allocating resources to jurisdictions inequitably. This has resulted in some jurisdictions with students who face significant non-academic and academic barriers to learning being underfunded while jurisdictions with less severe student need receiving funds above and beyond their respective requirements.

76% of students living in poverty in Maryland live in jurisdictions that are not Baltimore City.<sup>1</sup> 63% of all low-income students in Maryland are enrolled in districts with poverty rates of 15% or below.<sup>2</sup> It may be easy for some to forget about these students in larger conversations about cost, taxes, and resources, but the members of this coalition have difficulty overlooking those in need—they are the clients we directly serve every day. We know the costs associated with failing to make critical investments in Marylanders early on in their lives—Maryland must make a smart investment in its economic future, today.

**MAP appreciates your consideration, and strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 1000/House Bill 1300**

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***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.***

<sup>1</sup> The Urban Institute. "Do Poor Kids Get Their Fair Share of School Funding?" [https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/90586/school\\_funding\\_brief.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/90586/school_funding_brief.pdf) May 2017.

<sup>2</sup> IBID