



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

Stacey Jefferson, Chair
P: 410-637-1900 ext 8578
C: 443-813-9231

E: stacey.jefferson@bhsbaltimore.org

Margo Quinlan, Co-Chair
C: 410-236-5488

E: mquinlan@familyleague.org

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.¹ 63% of all low-income students in Maryland are enrolled in districts with poverty rates of 15% or below.² 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

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.

¹ 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 May 2017.

² IBID