



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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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 910

COVID-19 Eviction and Housing Relief Act of 2021

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

March 10, 2021

Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Julia Gross, Co-Chairs

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports SB 910, which will significantly extend and expand eviction protections beyond those offered by current orders.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put hundreds of thousands of Maryland households on the brink of eviction. The pandemic also highlighted the inequities that exist in our state and has exacerbated existing disparities in rental debt. 36% of Black households aren't current on their rent, compared to 14% of white households 30% of households earning less than \$50,000 are behind, compared to just 10% of those earning \$75,000 or more.

The bill provides, among other things

- Expansion and extension of the Governor Hogan/ CDC eviction orders throughout 2021;
- Financial relief for landlords through a statewide program that matches state/county funds;
- Prohibitions on lease non-renewals without a good cause. Rent delinquency and lease expiration are not good causes for lease termination; and
- Prohibition late fees, interest charges, and rent increases throughout the emergency.

We know Maryland can't recover from this pandemic if the General Assembly does not take swift action to ensure eviction prevention, to prioritize stability over displacement, and to end the disproportionate impact of eviction on Black and Brown communities. MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 910.

SB 910 is part of a larger package of Housing Justice bills necessary to support safe, healthy, fair, and affordable housing in Maryland. Marylanders Against Poverty proudly supports this package. For more information visit www.rentersunitedmaryland.org.

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.