



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1041

Department of Human Services - Family Investment Program - Contract  
and Program Review  
March 10, 2022

*Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs*

### Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Energy Advocates

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Family League of Baltimore

Fuel Fund of Maryland

Job Opportunities Task Force

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,  
Inc.

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Maryland Community Action  
Partnership

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Paul's Place

Public Justice Center

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore

Welfare Advocates

### Marylanders Against Poverty

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**The Maryland Alliance for the Poor (MAP) strongly supports HB 1041**, which would require a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of Maryland's Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program.

**TCA is Maryland's cash assistance program that funded in large part by the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant.** TCA is available to low income or no income families. Adult members of the household are required to participate in work activities each week. Our TCA program is not living up to the promises of the mid-1990's – it is not leading recipients to work and increased wages. **Five years after leaving TCA 68% of former recipients live in deep poverty (less than 50% of the poverty line)**, which is less than \$9,155 per year for a family of two.

While the TANF block grant provides states with significant flexibility to design their welfare programs, it does tie funding to a state achieving a target work participation rate. These work participation requirements are deeply rooted in our country's history of racist ideas and policies, and this reduces the effectiveness of this program for all TCA participants, regardless of race.

HB 1041 would require the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to review Maryland's TCA program, and make suggestions on how the program can be improved. It also would help ensure that the contractors receiving state funds to administer workforce participation services are providing meaningful programming that helps parents receiving TCA get back on a permanent path to economic security.

**MAP appreciates your consideration, and strongly urges a favorable report with amendments on HB 1041.**

*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.*