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**Testimony on House Bill 443**  
**Maryland Corps Program – Revisions**  
**House Appropriations Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge your support of House Bill 443 to revise and fund the Maryland Corps Program.

The Maryland Corps Program was established by the General Assembly in 2016 to "provide meaningful service opportunities.... that will address the social needs of the community" through participating nonprofit organizations and government agencies and help "program participants develop the critical job skills necessary for creating a more equitable society as they serve their communities across the state, using the lens of environmental, social, and racial justice." Unfortunately, this essential program has yet to be implemented.

House Bill 443 will restructure the governance of the Maryland Corps program, enhance the benefits of participation, and provide mandated appropriations to support its operations. Under BH 443, the Board would also become an intermediary with the AmeriCorps program for organizations in Maryland, relieving them of much of the administrative burden of participation with AmeriCorps.

Maryland's nonprofit sector employs nearly 13% of state's non-governmental workforce and is a leading force for good, providing education and job training, stewarding our environmental, fostering small business and economic development, protecting public health and promoting Maryland's unique culture and the arts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have faced delays and cuts in government and philanthropic support and our members report struggling to maintain a talented workforce that provides essential community services at a living wage. Once implemented, the revised Maryland Corps Program would provide an essential workforce development opportunity to our sector and the state

**We urge you to give House Bill 443 a favorable report.**



