



# TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF SB524

## Energy Efficiency & Conservation Programs 1% Energy Performance Low-Income Housing Targets

### Member Agencies:

211 Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth

Baltimore Jewish Council

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

CASH Campaign of Maryland

Catholic Charities

Energy Advocates

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

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,  
Inc.

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 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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*Senate Finance*

**February 15, 2022**

*Submitted by Laurel Peltier, MAP & Energy Advocates*

**Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) strongly supports SB524**, which sets energy performance benchmarks for DHCD and increases DHCD's weatherizing funding for low-income residences. Twenty percent of Maryland's families are low-income with average incomes of \$16,000 per year. Seniors are 41% of this target.

### Problem:

**1. Budget-busting BGE, Pepco, SMECO, Delmarva utility bills.** 13% energy burden utility bills for 400,000 families in the "low income" target. Average utility bills are ~\$2,000 per year! After rent, (70% of this target are renters) there's not enough cash left for food, meds, clothing, and life.

**2. Leaky homes coupled with very low participation rates for low-income weatherization.** DHCD has a big job, it's tricky, and increased focus & metrics is greatly needed to improve results.

**Time is running out.** It's estimated to take 130 years to retrofit this target's homes with today's DHCD processes and funding levels.

### Solution is SB524:

1. Set measurable, accountable target to decrease the energy usage for the target by 1%
2. Shrink time to 13 years, from 130 years, for most low-income homes to be made energy efficient.
3. Increases funding by encouraging Maryland to access more state, federal funding sources.

*SB524 is a key lever to help DHCD and Maryland achieve its clean energy goals. We must focus on, and ensure, that low-income homes are more energy efficient. Then we can realistically reach 100% emission-free.*

**MAP appreciates your consideration and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB524.**

*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.*