



"Being here for Maryland's Children, Youth, and Families"

Testimony submitted to House Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2024

**House Bill 694 – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments,
and Households Grant Program
ENOUGH Act of 2024**

Support

The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus (MAYSB), which represents a network of YSBs in Maryland, **SUPPORTS** *House Bill 694: Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)*. YSBs provide prevention, intervention and treatment services and understand the importance of serving the most vulnerable, Maryland’s children and families living in poverty in Maryland.

We applaud the bill in re-establishing the Governor’s Office for Children and the appointment of a Special Secretary. Children deserve an office dedicated to understanding their needs and developing effective systems of care and services to meet these needs. Maryland’s children and their families are facing many issues including mental health concerns, access to food, quality education, employment opportunities, home and community violence and medical care. MAYSB looks forward to working with GOC to address these issues and re-establish and create local services to meet these needs.

The establishment of the ENOUGH Grant fund is also appreciated, as it begins to dedicate funds to the needs of children and their families. The inclusion of Neighborhood Implementation Grants is welcomed, as it allows more community focused initiatives by organizations, schools and local governments that know and understand the needs in these communities. Youth Service Bureaus have been working in their respective communities for over 50 years and have historically received funds from the GOC to provide mental health prevention and intervention services, food resources and employment & educational supports. We look forward to the opportunity to continue this work through the ENOUGH Grant program.

We respectfully ask for favorable finding for this bill.

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