



*Maryland Association of*  
**LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS**

**Testimony in Support of the ENOUGH Act**

House Appropriations Committee

To: Chairman Barnes and members of the House Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, we are in support of the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments and Households (ENOUGH) Act of 2024.

Over thirty years ago, Maryland established a three-pronged approach to health and human services that has consistently received national recognition. The Children's Cabinet, Governor's Office for Children and Local Management Boards make up this infrastructure with Local Management Boards as the conduit between the state and local communities. All 24 LMBs act as the neutral convener of our local collective impact strategies tackling issues that contribute to child poverty such as food insecurity, behavioral and mental health, education, workforce development and the racial disparities that compound these issues. We understand that each neighborhood is unique and experiences different challenges while leveraging unique assets. Our job is to understand these assets and challenges, work together with institutions, organizations and community to address these needs so children, youth, their families and their communities can thrive.

One way we achieve this in Howard County is through our place-based strategy called Local Leadership Teams. Our approach aims to support community members by identifying inclusive strategies to eliminate disparities while working toward the cultivation of shared values and vision for more equitable communities in Howard County. This effort provides neighborhoods with a process for re-envisioning community that allows proper attention to the creative integration of people, places and processes that supports community needs while building stronger bonds among its members. A starting place is a shared vision of **a people** who embrace the notion of unity in their community. It is about ensuring **a place** that embodies a spirit of community rich with opportunity, supportive services and essential resources developed with community input, and maintained and enhanced by the community with support from key community stakeholders, quality service providers and local government. It is also about **a process** for creating an environment that supports equitable healthy growth and development, safety and security of all individuals, families, organizations and businesses throughout the entire community. Launched in 2018, our Local Leadership Team model for community partnership has proven to be an important step towards achieving valuable outcomes for Howard County. In 2018 the Oakland Mills Local Leadership Team was conceptualized, in 2019 OMLLT's leadership and organizational structure was formalized and beneficial supports were realized by the residents of Oakland Mills Village, and by 2020 the OMLLT became a key community partnership, well positioned as a trusted community resource to help support Oakland Mills residents through the COVID 19 crisis.



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Our approach differs from the traditional deficit view of community support to a strength-based approach that empowers community members by placing them in roles as leaders and decision makers. Public agencies are supportive with resources, delivering technical assistance and training as determined by the community.

The mission of Local Management Boards is to meet the needs of Maryland's most vulnerable children, youth, and families during a time when those needs and gaps in services are growing. Together, we can transform outcomes for Maryland's children, youth, and families, even with mounting challenges in our communities. The ENOUGH Act enhances and expands place-based work of Local Management Boards to tackle child poverty at the neighborhood level for significant impact and improved outcomes.

We urge you to support the ENOUGH Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Eisenreich".

Kimberly Eisenreich  
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards  
Co-Chair