



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC
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SB482/HB694 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

SUPPORT W/AMENDMENTS

Carrington & Associates, LLC supports Senate Bill 482/House Bill 694, also known as the ENOUGH Act of 2024, with the following proposed amendments.

Our Managing Director, Darrell Carrington, grew up in Camden, NJ—a city historically grappling with high crime and poverty rates. Darrell was fortunate to have both parents present, instilling high academic, social, and community standards. Acknowledging the timeless truth that "it takes a village to raise a child," Darrell recognizes the vital role of community-based efforts in breaking the cycle of poverty.

We extend our gratitude to the Governor for his steadfast dedication spanning decades in the pursuit of eliminating child poverty at its roots. As the Governor aptly stated, one's birth into poverty should not dictate their destiny to die in poverty. The stark disparities in unemployment, literacy rates, and food insecurity necessitate collective action, and the ENOUGH Act represents a significant stride towards that collective goal.

While we applaud the well-crafted bipartisan legislation, we propose an amendment to ensure that 33% of the appropriation for the bill is specifically allocated to Community Action Agencies already deeply embedded in struggling communities. These agencies, with established wrap-around services and robust partnerships, are well-equipped to utilize the funds effectively. This targeted allocation prevents them from competing with other worthy non-profits, and ensures a seamless integration of services.

This amendment aligns with the bill's contemplation of entities that have been tirelessly working on similar goals for decades. We believe it will allow them to respond more effectively to the increased service requests post-COVID and provide livable wages for their dedicated workforce.

In conclusion, we endorse the ENOUGH Act of 2024 wholeheartedly, recognizing its potential to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children and families in need. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this vital conversation and commend the Governor and all involved for their commitment to creating a brighter future for our communities. We ask for your Favorable report, with the propose amendments, for SB482\HB694.