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HB0694 House
Appropriations
Enough Act 2024
Governor's Office for Children

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Good Afternoon,

This testimony concerns the Enough Act 2024 Governor's Office for Children

We ask for a Favorable Report.

I represent DRINK AT THE WELL in Curtis Bay, MD. We help women survivors rise out of poverty which results in impacts on their children's lives. The Enough Act is critical to our neighborhood. I am personally acquainted with loss of my immediate family and my finances under devastating circumstances.

The Women at The Well are survivors of generational poverty and the trauma that flows from it. Almost all of their friends have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse, have been forced into sex work and some have survived trafficking. Many struggle with addiction. Most are mothers who very much want a better life for their children.

Curtis Bay, a South Baltimore neighborhood that is adjacent to Brooklyn and Cherry Hill. Neighborhood Scout ranks South Baltimore 1 out of 100 most violent neighborhoods in America (100 being the safest). There is a 36% unemployment rate, 6 Active Gangs in Brooklyn/Curtis Bay, and routine drug and sex trafficking. 32% of families and 51% of children in Curtis Bay live in poverty. (source: BNIA Neighborhood Vital signs) while 69% of the children in the community are being raised in single-parent homes. Children in single family homes are 5x as likely to live below the poverty line.

HON'S Honey is our social enterprise, dedicated to giving dignity and purpose to women survivors. Research reveals that Business, Economics and Finance are vital skills for communities who desire to lift their children out of poverty.

If given the opportunity and resources, Drink at the Well will impact the next generation with these vital skillsets.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Connie Moore M.Ed., C.A.F.E.

Resources

Gray Group International 2024, *Gray group international* website, Blog, poverty reduction, accessed February 17, 2024, <https://www.graygroupintl.com/blog/poverty-reduction>.

Plan International Canada, Inc. 2024, *Plan international canada website*, 5 ways to end poverty, accessed February 17, 2024, <https://plancanada.ca/stories/5-ways-to-end-poverty>.

Social Finance, Inc. 2024, *SoFi website*, Tips for overcoming situational poverty, accessed February 17, 2024, Tips for Overcoming Situational Poverty - SoFi.