

February 25, 2024

SUPPORT – HB 694 - Appropriations - Governor’s Office for Children – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families (Local Management Board), I am writing in support of HB694 (The ENOUGH Act) which will provide a vehicle to target child poverty at the local level using place-based strategies. We applaud the Governor for his strategic and data driven approach and wholeheartedly support this Bill.

Local Management Boards are the critical third leg of the Maryland Health and Human Services three-pronged approach. For the past thirty years we have acted as local voice and local advocate for needs and resources in each jurisdiction and county and we have been monitoring child poverty across the state, in every county and jurisdiction, for over thirty years.

In Anne Arundel County we write the Community Needs Assessment, Poverty Amidst Plenty, every three years. It tells a familiar Maryland story of great wealth and great want, with a well-defined geography and color to poverty. The Enough Act will help us continue to work towards equity of resources and opportunity in our targeted areas where we have already begun the work of place based strategies and initiatives. We stand ready, with clear data, to target the areas where child poverty and the social drives of health, are rising.

I urge you to support HB694, Governor’s Office for Children – Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024) to address childhood poverty at the local level.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD, Executive Director