



Senate Bill 666

Maryland Community Action Agencies - Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 18, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 666. This bill would provide a additional resources and predictable funding to Maryland’s Community Action Agencies, who often partner with counties to deliver critical anti-poverty public services.

Maryland Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are nonprofit organizations that provide services to low-income individuals and families to help them achieve economic stability and self-sufficiency. They offer programs such as housing assistance, energy assistance, job training, early childhood education, and financial literacy. Funded by federal, state, and local sources, these agencies operate throughout the state, addressing poverty through community-based solutions.

Years of inflation and the impacts of climate change, coupled with the current challenges around energy and housing, have left some organizations and the communities they serve reeling. Counties applaud the intent of SB 666, as it buttresses a critical pillar of local communities at a time when many more are in need. As the front line for anti-poverty services in many areas, CAAs are the main actor helping families and constituents when they may be at their lowest.

SB 666 is good, practical legislation, that can have an immediate and direct benefit to our mutual constituents. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 666 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.