



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

March 6, 2025

OPPOSE – SB0894 – Office of Social Equity - Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund - Advisory Board and Modifications

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in opposition to **SB0894 – Office of Social Equity - Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund - Advisory Board and Modifications**, because it create more burdens for local governments administering funding through the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund. Some Local Management Boards have been identified to administer CRRF Funds, as LMBs have the mechanism to grant to programs like we do for the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund. SB0894 will take away decisions that should be made at the local level where services and needs vary by jurisdiction.

The funding used for the CRRF Fund aligns with programs in areas LMBs seek to address. We know our areas with the highest poverty are also the areas that have been impacted negatively by over-zealous and disproportionately administered drug policies. We oppose the requirement to develop a plan before spending funds. Every county has different procedures for how they are engaging their communities to decide where the investment is needed - taking away the local decision will impede the impact of this funding.

Some counties have said this bill would create more burdens for them. Under this bill an additional report would be required to the Office of Social Equity, creating more administrative work. The fiscal note finds that there would be an increase of administrative costs, while at the same time predicting a decrease in revenue for the CRRF fund.

We urge you to oppose SB0894 – Office of Social Equity - Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund - Advisory Board and Modifications, as it will negatively impact the administration of the CRRF Funds at the county level.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair