

February 19, 2025

Testimony on Senate Bill 703
Family Investment Program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
Program Benefits - Child Support
Senate Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of nonprofit organizations and institutions of all sizes serving Marylanders and communities across the entire state.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 703, that requires the State to pass through all child support collections to Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) families without making a corresponding decrease to the benefit amount.

When non-custodial parents know that the funds they contribute are distributed to their children, they are more likely to make a payment. These child support payments have a positive impact on child development – such as higher cognitive skills and stronger emotional development- and can reduce incidents of child maltreatment.

Families on TCA live in deep poverty: the benefit amount is only statutorily required to meet 61.25% of the Maryland Minimum Living Level when combined with SNAP. Adding additional income to a low-income family's household budget through a full child support pass-through and disregard policy would have a dramatic effect on the family's ability to meet their basic needs.

In FY 2023, 31% of families on TCA had an established child support order, and only two out of five of those families received a pass-through payment. For the typical family, the additional support raised the household's quarterly income by 11%. While this is an important start, states like Colorado, Michigan, and Illinois, have seen great success with passing through the full child support collected, and Maryland should follow their lead in the effort to increase family stability.

We urge you to give Senate Bill 703 a favorable report.