

# **2026 House SB668 LMB Testimony\_Family League\_Updat**

Uploaded by: Demaune Millard

Position: FAV



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## **SB 668 Children's Cabinet Fund – Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards**

**To:** Chair Ben Barnes, Vice-Chair Anne R. Kaiser, and Distinguished Members of the House Appropriations Committee

**From:** Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League

**Date:** March 23, 2026

Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Kaiser, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am Demaune Millard, President and CEO of Family League of Baltimore (Family League)—the Local Management Board (LMB) of the City of Baltimore and a proud member of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards (MALMB). I am writing in strong support of SB 668/HB 680 as the legislation returns to the House following Senate referral.

### **WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO**

Family League is a leading family-resources organization serving Baltimore, connecting thousands of families with services, support, and advocacy to raise healthy, thriving children. We bring together schools, health systems, housing agencies, workforce partners, behavioral health providers, and community-based organizations to ensure that families in Baltimore's most under-resourced neighborhoods don't fall through the cracks. In a city where one in three children live in poverty—more than 30,000 children—this coordination is not optional, it is essential.

The results of this work are measurable. Through our partnerships and braided funding model—combining Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF) dollars with city appropriations, philanthropic investment, and federal resources—Family League generates more than \$2 in total community value to every \$1 of state investment. Statewide, Maryland's 24 LMBs collectively leverage \$3 for every \$1 invested. That is not just efficient government—that is government that works.

### **A NAME THAT MATCHES THE MISSION, FUNDING THAT MEETS THE MOMENT**

The core funding that sustains this infrastructure has been quietly eroding for over a decade. Since 2011, the CCIF has been cut from \$47 million to approximately \$21 million in FY2026—a more than 55% reduction—even as the demand for services has grown dramatically. During the pandemic, LMBs statewide served over 530,000 Marylanders, a 150% surge from pre-pandemic levels. The elevated need has not receded. Economic pressures, persistent inequity, and now federal funding uncertainty are placing extraordinary strain on local systems across every jurisdiction in this state.

SB 668/HB 680 addresses both the structural and symbolic dimensions of this challenge. Renaming the CCIF to more accurately reflect its purpose as a direct grant fund for LMBs is a meaningful signal—it clarifies what this money does and who it serves. More critically, this bill charts a phased path forward restoring sustainable funding.

Family League is aware of and supportive of the State's modifications to the fiscal year appropriation schedule, which reflect a more measured and fiscally responsible approach:

- FY2028: \$1 million increase (revised from \$3 million)
- FY2029: \$500,000 increase (revised from \$2 million)
- FY2030: \$500,000 increase (revised from \$2 million)
- FY2031: \$500,000 increase (revised from \$2 million)

While these figures represent a more gradual ramp-up than originally proposed, Family League recognizes and appreciates the Senate's commitment to incrementally rebuilding funding for LMBs. Any increase is a step in the right direction and demonstrates that the legislature understands the critical role LMBs play across all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. We look forward to continued investment in future sessions as the case for full restoration continues to be made.

This is not a new program. It is an investment in proven infrastructure that already exists in all 24 jurisdictions, serving Maryland's most vulnerable children and families.

In Baltimore, this funding directly advances the Governor's ENOUGH Initiative, which Family League helps implement across the city's highest-poverty neighborhoods—Cherry Hill, Park Heights, Greater Mondawmin, Southwest Baltimore, and beyond. We support grantees who are doing the hard, place-based work of transforming neighborhoods. We build their capacity. We connect them to data and resources. We quarterback cross-sector collaboration. None of that coordination is possible without a sustainable funding floor, and that floor is what SB 668/HB 680 begins to restore.

Governor Moore has said that to fully address poverty, you need to engage the people on the ground. LMBs are how the state does exactly that—in every county and in Baltimore. We are not overhead. We are the administrative backbone and infrastructure that makes every other investment go further.

I urge this Committee to move for a favorable report on SB668 /HB 680 as amended by the Senate. Fund the work that is already working. Invest in the infrastructure that communities across Maryland depend on. The children of Baltimore—and every jurisdiction in this state—deserve nothing less.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Demaune A. Millard  
President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore  
Baltimore City Local Management Board Member,  
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards

**SB0668-APP\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karrington Anderson

Position: FAV



## **Senate Bill 668**

### *Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 25, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 668. This bill strengthens Maryland's commitment to children and families by renaming the Children's Cabinet Fund and establishing a dedicated, increasing funding stream for grants to Local Management Boards (LMBs).

This bill requires annual appropriations above the prior fiscal year's level – \$1 million in FY 2028 and a \$500k increase in each of the following three fiscal years – ensuring that investments grow to meet rising needs. Maryland's 24 Local Management Boards are a vital component of community-based collaboration. Active in every jurisdiction, LMBs function as quasi-authorities of local government, bringing together schools, nonprofits, service providers, and county leaders to coordinate child- and family-serving programs. They are uniquely positioned to identify local needs and deploy resources strategically and efficiently.

LMBs support a wide range of initiatives that strengthen communities, including reducing youth homelessness and child hunger, mitigating the impact of incarceration on families, and preventing costly out-of-state residential placements. These efforts not only improve outcomes for children but also reduce long-term costs to state and local governments.

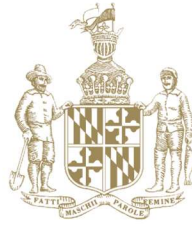
Despite growing responsibilities, State support has not kept pace. The Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund has declined from \$47 million in 2011 to just \$21 million in 2026. At the same time, demand for services has surged. During the pandemic alone, LMBs served more than 530,000 Marylanders, more than double pre-pandemic levels, demonstrating both their reach and their critical importance.

SB 668 represents a measured approach to rebuilding this essential funding stream. By establishing predictable, incremental increases, the bill provides stability to local partners while reinforcing the State's commitment to coordinated, community-based solutions. For these reasons, MACo respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 668.

# **Official Sponsor Testimony in support of SB 668 (H**

Uploaded by: Kevin M. Harris

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony in Support of SB668**  
**Children's Cabinet Fund – Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards**  
**March 25, 2026**

Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Kaiser, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund is tasked with providing resources to local management boards to strengthen community-based services for children and families. Local management boards have taken on the critical work of preventing youth violence, providing mental and behavioral health services, supporting workforce development, confronting poverty, and supporting early childhood education and school readiness. To achieve the organization's goals, local management boards conduct local needs assessments, map assets, identify gaps and strategies, provide funding for the most vulnerable, and provide rapid response during crises.

The work of Maryland's local management boards is necessary and contemporary as the state confronts child poverty, hunger, and housing affordability. The money in the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund enables this important work.

Unfortunately, the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund had its funding slashed from \$47 million in 2011 and funds never returned to previous levels. Funding currently sits around \$21 million. Demand for the work of our local management boards has grown dramatically, as has the cost of operation. Additional funding is needed to meet the needs of vulnerable Maryland children and families.

SB668: Children's Cabinet Fund – Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards, requires that the governor include in the annual budget bill the following appropriations for the fund to be used for grants to eligible local management boards:

- For fiscal year 2028, \$3,000,000.
- For fiscal years 2029-2031, \$2,000,000 annually.

Additionally, SB668 will change the statutory name of the Children's Cabinet Fund to the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund. Maryland government websites already reflect this name change.

I respectfully request a favorable committee report on SB668, so that Maryland's children and families can receive the support they need to not just survive, but thrive.