



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

February 12, 2025

**SUPPORT – SB0571 - Commercial Law - Broadband Access - Low-Income Consumer Programs
(Maryland Broadband Opportunity and Fairness Act)**

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **SB0571 - Commercial Law - Broadband Access - Low-Income Consumer Programs (Maryland Broadband Opportunity and Fairness Act)** to require certain broadband providers in the State to establish a program to provide certain broadband services to eligible low-income consumers. Internet access is an essential utility. Expanding access means students have access to their homework and other educational resources. Families can seek employment, apply for benefits and take advantage of numerous services. Internet access should now be considered an essential basic need.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland work in low income neighborhoods to address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. We regularly work with families who are struggling to pay bills, managing rising rents and skyrocketing BGE bills, as well as the increasing price of groceries. Any sort of relief will help our families gain stability. Internet access is vital yet many low income families have to make the choice between that and food or housing costs.

We urge you to support SB0571 - Commercial Law - Broadband Access - Low-Income Consumer Programs (Maryland Broadband Opportunity and Fairness Act) to create more broadband access to low-income families in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair