



Maryland Association of
LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

February 4, 2021

Support for HB 612, the RELIEF Act

Dear Chair Kaiser and members of the House Ways & Means Committee,

The Maryland Association of Local Management Boards strongly supports **RELIEF Act of 2021**, an emergency stimulus and tax relief package that will provide more than \$1 billion for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Maryland Association of Local Management Boards is comprised of 24 county organizations, the core purpose of which is to improve local outcomes for Maryland's children, youth and families. Every Local Management Board (LMB) provides a unique set of outcomes-focused programs to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Our LMBs work to end hunger, support early childhood initiatives, divert juveniles from the criminal justice system and keep children in school.

Local Management Boards in every county and jurisdiction have been an active part of the response to COVID since March of 2020. Pre-pandemic, the total number of Marylanders served statewide by LMBs is 212,114. During the pandemic, the number has increased to a total of 530,405 - a 150% increase in comparison to normal service levels, despite our 10% mid-year cut.

The jurisdictions that experienced the greatest increase in individuals served are Allegany (2400% increase), Anne Arundel (4000% increase), Queen Anne's (2835% increase), and Wicomico (1028% increase). COVID-19 response assistance in these jurisdictions included food insecurity, rental assistance/eviction prevention & paying utilities, financial assistance for internet services and mental health programming.

We share these numbers to illustrate the broad array of needs across every community in Maryland. We strongly support many elements in the RELIEF Act, including the direct relief for Marylanders, COVID-19 loan and grant forgiveness, and the additional revenues added by the Senate for school-age children and mental health crisis response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P M Brown".

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair, Maryland Association of Local Management Boards



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