

## **CAB Advocacy in FY20**

### **Affordable Housing**

- Submitted comments opposing a proposed HUD rule change that would have prohibited “mixed-status” households from qualifying for subsidized housing. (July 2019)
- Executive Committee met with Councilmember Glass to discuss the Housing Impact Fairness Act. (November 2019)
- Submitted testimony in support of the Housing Impact Fairness Act, which would require teardowns to pay impact fees. The revenue collected would be used for school construction and affordable housing. CAB Chair Laura E. Irwin was invited to speak at a press conference prior to the hearing. Other speakers included representatives of Interfaith Works, CASA de Maryland, and SEIU Local 500. (December 2019)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB821, which would require landlords to provide “just cause” prior to evicting a tenant. (March 2020)
- CAB Vice Chair Tiffany Jones testified at the County Council hearing in support of the Renter Relief Act, which prevented rent increases during the public health emergency. (April 2020)
- Submitted a letter of support to the County Council regarding the use of CDBG funds to support rental assistance and small business loans for low-income microenterprise owners. (May 2020)

### **CAB Priorities**

- CAB Chair Laura E. Irwin testified at the HHS Committee worksession for BCCs – testimony focused on agency needs. (October 2019)
- CAB Chair Laura E. Irwin testified at the Joint Delegation Hearing in support of CAB’s key statewide priorities. (November 2019)
- Submitted testimony regarding the FY21 County Operating Budget. Testimony focused on the main community issues highlighted in the CNA, many of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 emergency. (April 2020)

### **Census**

- Signed-on to a Census Project letter requesting adequate funding for the 2020 Census. (July 2019)
- Signed on to a Census Project letter requesting that the Senate Appropriations Committee include additional funding for the Census Bureau in the next COVID relief package. (June 2020)

### **Consumer Issues**

- Submitted testimony in support of SB17, which would prevent auto insurance companies from using credit history in determining ratings. (January 2020)

- Submitted testimony in support of SB234/HB280, which would prevent the MVA from suspending a person's driver's license or car registration for failure to pay traffic violation fines and would allow for the establishment of a payment plan for fines totaling more than \$300. (February 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB38, which would set the maximum fine for video toll violations at \$5 and would prevent the MVA from suspending driver's licenses and car registrations for failure to pay these fines. (February 2020)

#### CSBG

- Submitted written testimony in support of an adjustment to the state's CSBG formula. (November 2019)
- Joined a CAP/CAPLAW sign-on letter regarding proposed changes to the CSBG Annual Report. (December 2019)

#### Early Care and Education/Head Start

- Submitted message to Senators Cardin and Van Hollen requesting full funding for Head Start. The message focused on the need for staff support and trauma-informed services. (August 2019)
- Added CAB's support to CAPLAW's and NHSA's comments regarding proposed changes to Head Start recompetition. (September 2019)
- Submitted testimony in support of a Special Appropriation for the FY20 Operating Budget to fund School Community Health Nurses. (December 2019)
- CAB Vice Chair Tiffany Jones testified at the Board of Education budget hearing in support of CAB priorities: expansion of PreK, funding for support (FSWs) and administrative staff, 2-Gen models to reduce poverty, and reducing disparities for students of different backgrounds and socio-economic status. (January 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB1232, which would offer tax credits to employers who establish onsite childcare centers or compensate providers who offer childcare to their employees. (March 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of County Council Bill 9-20, which would establish a grant program for employers with 50 or fewer employees that offer child care Flexible Spending Accounts. (March 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of a County Council Special Appropriation that would fund a grant program for child care providers impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. (June 2020)

#### Food Security

- Signed-on to a Maryland Hunger Solutions letter requesting Senators Cardin and Van Hollen to co-sponsor the "No Shame at School Act", which would prohibit schools from addressing school meals debt in ways that shame or stigmatize students. (July 2019)
- Submitted comments opposing a proposed rule change for SNAP, which would eliminate categorical eligibility. Categorical eligibility allows states, including

Maryland, to use eligibility for other programs as one criterion for SNAP eligibility. (August 2019)

- Joined a FRAC sign-on letter supporting the Stop Child Summer Hunger Act, which would provide a summer EBT card to families with children who receive FARMs. (September 2019)
- Joined a FRAC sign-on letter supporting the Summer Meals Act of 2019, which would expand the reach of summer meals programs. (September 2019)
- Maryland Hunger Solutions included CAB's comments opposing the proposed changes to SNAP categorical eligibility in their testimony at a House Subcommittee hearing. (October 2019)
- Signed-on to a thank you letter to Attorney General Brian Frosh, expressing appreciation for his advocacy opposing proposed changes to SNAP categorical eligibility. (October 2019)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB1145, which would establish a non-lapsing Maryland Meals for Achievement Fund and would require the Comptroller to distribute taxes collected from snack food sales to the Fund. (February 2020)

#### Racial Justice

- CAB and the Head Start Parents Policy Council issued a joint statement following the murder of George Floyd. The statement emphasized the two groups' ongoing commitment to changing policies that have allowed for system racism and highlighted the history of Community Action and Head Start, both of which grew out of the Civil Rights Movement. (June 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of a County Council Resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. The testimony encouraged the Council to fund health programs that assist minority community members, support policies that reduce economic inequities, utilize the SSS as an accurate measure of the cost of living in the County, and to address the opportunity gap in MCPS. (June 2020)

#### VITA/EITC/Tax Credits

- Signed-on to a CASH Campaign of Maryland letter requesting that the Governor release funds set aside for a grant to CASH Campaign to support VITA. (July 2019)
- Called and sent email to Senator Van Hollen, who is on the Appropriations Committee, to request his support for \$30 million in the budget for VITA matching grants programs. (July 2019)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB679/ SB717, which would expand eligibility for the state's EITC for single filers without dependents earning up to \$23,540. (February 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB680/ SB719, which would increase the value of the state's EITC for single filers without dependents to 100% of the federal EITC. (February 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB912/SB638, which would establish a Child Tax Credit in Maryland for households with incomes of \$6,000 or less. (February 2020)

#### Whole Family/2-Gen Work

- Submitted testimony in support of HB1363, would establish a Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission. This Commission would support Community Action Agencies and other programs seeking to implement and expand two-generation models by coordinating services, exploring best practices, and supporting data collection. (February 2020)

#### Work Supports/Employment

- Submitted testimony in support of HB123/SB217, which would prevent employers from asking applicants about wage history. (February 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of SB531/HB1444, which outlaws discrimination based on hairstyle and hair texture. The bill would also prohibit discrimination based on hairstyle in housing and places that are licensed and regulated by the Maryland Department of Labor. (February/March 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of HB839/SB539, which would establish a family medical leave insurance program in Maryland. (February 2020)

#### Other

- Submitted testimony in support of HB1231/SB949, with amendments. The bill would change the marriage age to 17 (from 16). CAB recommended increasing the marriage age, but to 18. (February/March 2020)
- Submitted testimony in support of SB367, which would establish a Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative within the Maryland Department of Education to develop guidelines and training on trauma-informed care. (March 2020)