



July 5, 2012

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor for the State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Dear Governor O'Malley:

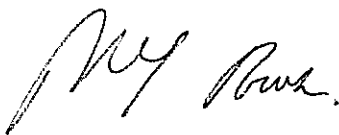
On behalf of Maryland's twenty-four Local Management Boards (LMBs) and the thousands of Maryland families we serve, we would request that the \$7.3 million reduction in our funding in the FY 2013 budget be fully restored with general funds in FY 2014. The fund swap that occurred in FY 2013 was proposed as a one-time action to backfill a one-time reduction in the budget. Further, it was indicated by the Department of Budget and Management that the FY 2014 budget would be restored to the level of funding in FY 2012. As you know, these dollars are vital to providing local, evidence based programming for vulnerable children and families in each of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland including home visiting, afterschool, mental health and early childhood programs. Our positive and cost-effective approach is only successful with consistency in funding and resources.

While LMB members and other stakeholders across the State were very disappointed to learn of the fund swap using Earned Reinvestment funds to backfill the \$7.3 million reduction in funding for LMBs in the FY 2013 budget, we understand that these are difficult economic times that require careful budgetary consideration and, at times, sacrifice. We recognize that this decision had to be made for FY 2013 but we want to make sure that the funding for the Community Partnership Agreements in FY 2014 is restored without the use of any type of a fund swap.

We appreciate the extraordinary time and effort that you and your staff have put forward over these many years to help Marylanders. The numerous communities that we represent support your efforts and want to help you continue the success. The report entitled: *Maryland's Local Management Boards, Making a Difference for Children and Families* funded by the Richard A. Henson Foundation in Salisbury and the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore reminds us that thousands of Marylanders came together to develop LMBs so that our families and children would be better off. The report sites multiple sources of evidence that LMBs are making a positive difference and the system they have been a part of has changed the landscape of services in Maryland for the better.

Throughout this very difficult recession the LMBs have exercised fiscal conservatism while continuing to show positive results for children. Our resolve is tremendous because the cause is just too important. Please do what you can to make sure that funding for this successful effort for children and families is reinstated in the way it was intended – in a way that will ensure continued results for our citizens.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. M. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Pamela M. Brown, Ph.D.

President, Maryland Association of Local Management Boards

CC: Senator Nancy King, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children & Families
Delegate Jolene Ivey, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children & Families
Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair of the Budget and Taxation committee
Delegate Norman H. Conway, Chair of the Appropriations Committee
Eloise Foster, Secretary of Maryland Department of Budget & Management
Kim Malat, Acting Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children and Chair of the Children's Cabinet
Members of the Local Management Boards across Maryland
Directors of the Local Management Boards across Maryland