



Member Agencies:

Advocates for Children and Youth
Associated Black Charities
Baltimore Jewish Council
CASA of Maryland Inc.
Catholic Charities
Energy Advocates
Episcopal Community Services
Greater Baltimore Urban League
Health Care for the Homeless
Homeless Persons
Representation Project
Interfaith Works
Jewish Community Relations Council
of Greater Washington
Job Opportunities Task Force
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Maryland Budget & Tax Policy Institute
Maryland CASH Campaign
Maryland Catholic Conference
Maryland Community Action Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Maryland Interfaith
Legislative Committee
Maryland State Conference, NAACP
National Council on Alcoholism & Drug
Dependence – Maryland Chapter
Public Justice Center
St. Vincent de Paul Society
United Way of Central Maryland
Welfare Advocates

Maryland Alliance for the Poor

Branden McLeod, Chair
P: (410) 727-6367 x 2345
C: (443) 310-0648
E: bmcleod@mdnonprofit.org

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION REGULATIONS COMAR 20.31.01.02
AND 20.31.03-06**

*Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive &
Legislative Review*

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Submitted by Branden A. McLeod, Chair

The Maryland Alliance for the Poor (MAP) is a statewide network of advocacy organizations, service providers, and faith communities working together to advocate on behalf of Marylanders living in or near poverty. MAP strongly recommends the need for more protective regulations to ensure the health and safety of Maryland citizens during extreme weather conditions.

On January 15, 2010, the Public Service Commission adopted regulations prohibiting terminations during extreme temperatures for a 72-hour forecast period. MAP supports these regulations.

Residential customers are at great risk when gas and electric service is terminated during very hot or very colds days. In fact, people with health conditions, young children and older Marylanders are especially vulnerable to the extreme changes in weather.

The temperature this winter has already reached bone-chilling lows and the poor economy has affected many households' ability to pay unexpected increases in utility costs. Therefore, MAP recommends regulations which provide protection from service terminations when temperatures are forecast to be extremely hot (95 degrees or above) or if the cold forecast temperature is to be 32 degrees or below at any time during the following 72 hours in that weather station. This regulation will keep Marylanders safe and allow them time to seek public or private assistance.