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Advocates for Children and Youth
Baltimore Jewish Council
CASA of Maryland Inc.
Catholic Charities
Energy Advocates
Episcopal Community Services
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
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Maryland Family Network
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Maryland Interfaith
Legislative Committee
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

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 419 Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program Annual Report

House Ways and Means Committee
March 10, 2010

Submitted by Branden McLeod

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 comes to you in support of House Bill 419. The Maryland State Department of Education currently submits an annual report on the 24 Judy Hoyer Centers and Enhancement Grants. House Bill 419 expands that report to include the programs that participate in Judy Hoyer initiatives, including pre-K, Head Start, Infants and Toddlers, family support services, and child care programs.

Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Family Education Centers or "Judy Centers," provide early education and special education from birth through kindergarten to low-income children in 21 jurisdictions in Maryland. These centers collaborate with community-based agencies, organizations and businesses to integrate educational services as well as breakfast and lunch programs, health care for children, family involvement programs, Adult Education, and a number of other services that are integral into ensuring that all of Maryland's children enter school ready and able to learn.

The partnerships Judy Centers seek and maintain are mandated and need to be included in MSDE's annual report. But it is simply not enough to require the collaborations and not revisit whether they are high-quality and conducive to Judy Centers' ultimate goals. This legislation will not cause the State to incur any costs, will help Maryland monitor the progress and results in early childhood education and will strengthen Maryland's chances of receiving money through federal grants. Federal grants demand strong accountability and this bill will create a more comprehensive report on the state of early care and education in Maryland.