



February 20, 2007

To: Chairman and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Henry Bogdan, Public Policy Director

Re: House Bill 269 – Public Service Summer Internship Scholarship Program

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations is a statewide organization comprised of over 1600 member nonprofit agencies, associations and institutions, and our purpose is to support and enhance the effectiveness of the State's more than 24,000 nonprofit groups in carrying out their missions of public and community service.

House Bill 269 establishes an important new state approach to a serious challenge – attracting and exposing well-qualified, interested young people to career possibilities in public service, in both the public and nonprofit sector in Maryland. The bill also provides for the direction and coordination of the program under the Shriver Center at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

The Public Service Summer Internship Scholarship Program would provide critical financial support for student placements as interns in government service and in positions that provide exposure to management and other leadership functions in nonprofit organizations.

The nonprofit sector, both nationally and in Maryland, faces a serious challenge with the aging demographic of many of those now serving in senior management and professional positions in our organizations. In view of the important role of nonprofits as service providers on behalf of state and local government, and in supplementing or extending the capacity of public services for people and communities, their inclusion in this type of program certainly serves a direct state interest.

Most of our small to medium sized nonprofits could provide excellent opportunities for students to work directly with, and assist executive directors, finance professionals, development staff, human resource managers, boards of directors, and other leaders, but lack the financial ability to attract highly qualified interns for these roles.

We strongly urge you to give House Bill 269 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.