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**Delegate Gerron Levi's Job Creation Bill Topic of General Assembly Hearing  
Monday, March 1**

(Annapolis, MD – February 26, 2010) – The House Rules committee will convene a hearing on Monday, March 1 at 2 pm for HB 939, a bill to allow members of the Maryland General Assembly to use a portion of their unallocated budgets to hire grant writers for small area nonprofits. The bill was introduced by Delegate Gerron Levi (D-District 23). The hearing will be held in Room 145 of the Lowe House Office Building.

"During lean budget times, Maryland residents could benefit from a strong and vibrant non-profit sector," said Levi. "Small nonprofits should work together to build capacity, collaborate with local government, and actively compete for outside federal, state and foundation dollars in health care, education, environment and crime prevention. Although many area nonprofits are also being affected by state and local budget cuts, a strong nonprofit sector can also help mitigate the impact of those cuts on the ground in local communities. *And more importantly, nonprofits can help create jobs.*"

In a report released in January, 2010, the John Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies concluded that nonprofit organizations are a counter-cyclical force in the economy, actually adding workers in times of economic downturn. Despite the recession, employment growth at Maryland nonprofits increased by 2.7 percent in 2008, according to the research. In 2008, Maryland nonprofits generated over \$11.5 billion in wages or more than nine percent of the state's payroll, and an estimated \$635 million in personal income tax revenue for state and local governments.

"In addition to providing student scholarships and bond bills for local organizations, under the measure, delegates and senators now would have the ability to leverage a small amount of their unallocated office budget to build local nonprofit capacity, create jobs and potentially lessen the impact of budget cuts," Levi added.

Currently, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate has some discretion over whether an individual or group of delegates and/or senators can use unallocated budget dollars to hire grant writers for local projects.

"In my own experience, I was able to leverage about \$2,500 of my unallocated budget to help several non-profits win a \$1.1 million grant to build advanced math skills in Prince George's County," said Levi. "The federal funding provided free summer math camps for 419 students at eight sites, and created 24 direct jobs and several additional indirect jobs. We are now trying to leverage it further into a much larger project that could create twice as many jobs this summer."

The Maryland General Assembly generally uses unallocated budget dollars from delegates and senators to fund housekeeping projects, but returned about \$5 million to the general fund in 2010.

**\*\*Delegate Levi is available for advance interviews. Please contact Charlotte Aheart in her Annapolis office at 410-841-3101\*\***

For more information, visit:

Nonprofits and Recessions: New Data from Maryland  
[http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/NED\\_Bulletins/States/MD\\_33.pdf](http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/NED_Bulletins/States/MD_33.pdf)

Making Connections: The Nonprofit Sector in Prince George's County  
[http://www.marylandnonprofits.org/documents/MakingConnectionsReport\\_000.pdf](http://www.marylandnonprofits.org/documents/MakingConnectionsReport_000.pdf)

Prince George's Advanced Math Project  
[www.mdcsic.org](http://www.mdcsic.org)

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