



TESTIMONY FOR HB1149
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SOCIAL HOUSING
SUBPROGRAM (SOCIAL HOUSING ACT)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1149 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Let's face it. Maryland is a very expensive area to live in. As the wealth inequality gap widens, more and more Marylanders are not able to afford housing in the state. Social housing is a good solution to this growing problem.

Social housing allows for mixed income rental housing. It allows people with low income to live alongside people of middle income. This avoids creating socially disadvantaged areas for low income people, or forcing them to move far away from areas with a higher concentration of jobs. Often, people who make low wages can't afford housing close to their job. This means that they spend more time and money on commuting.

This legislation would stimulate the construction of social housing and allow for people with low incomes to have safe, but affordable housing near their work. This would require them to spend less money getting to work, and would create more opportunities for them.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.