



## HOUSING COMMISSION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

7477 BALTIMORE-ANNAPOLIS BLVD.

GLEN BURNIE, MD 21061

(410)222-6200 ♦ FAX (410)222-6214 ♦ TDD-MDRELAY711

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 1149 HOUSING COMMISSION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY February 20, 2020

The Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County support House Bill 1149. The affordable housing crisis in our county and in our nation is at epidemic levels and any attempt to increase or enhance the amount of housing that people can afford is paramount and critically necessary.

Currently, our agency has **over 25,000 unduplicated families and individuals on our waiting lists for affordable housing units or subsidies.** This continues to grow, in fact, our Housing Choice Voucher waitlist has grown over 435% since we re-opened it in July of 2019. We also continue to see families with higher incomes seeking help with rent and other housing related services as costs continue to increase exponentially in our county, and throughout Maryland.

The Housing Commission currently has three communities funded and created using the Partnership Rental Housing Program, which was a critical source of gap financing needed to make certain that the communities became a reality. These communities are constantly 100% occupied with long waiting lists. This program is viable and highly desirable for projects that especially need some additional financing to cover the debt service.

Affordable (social) housing is critical in the lives of our elderly, disabled and working families who are in the low to moderate income strata. There clearly is not enough and the demand increases, while impediments and local government issues stand between desire, concept and reality.

This bill begins to move the dialogue, concepts, funding and discussions in the correct direction and creates many more opportunities for needed communities. We encourage all legislators to support HB1149.

Clifton C. Martin  
Chief Executive Officer