



Testimony HB 797

House Judiciary Committee

February 17, 2019

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Clippinger & Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland's community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland's urban, suburban and rural communities. CDN envisions a state in which all neighborhoods are thriving and where people of all incomes have abundant opportunities for themselves and their families. e

HB 797 Statewide Eviction Data Collection bill would require administrative offices of the courts to publish quarterly data from all jurisdictions for execution of warrants and writs of possession.

The consequences of eviction are both immediate and long term, and they spread into all aspects of individual, family, and community life. Being evicted can lead to a long spiral of financial instability. It can affect a person's ability to get or keep a job, care for family, stay in good health, build or maintain relationships, and secure future housing. Just having an eviction filing on the public record can be a serious obstacle in securing future housing. People are primarily evicted because of poverty. Evictions disparately impact Black communities, especially Black women and families.

Although eviction is by no means a new problem, more data can help the state respond in a more strategic and coordinated effort. This bill can improve transparency around landlord/tenant disputes, without disclosing information that would identify tenants. This will help inform strategies for eviction defense and protect tenants' rights.

We respectfully request a favorable report for HB 797.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Associate Director, Community Development Network