



THE COORDINATING CENTER R
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Support
HB 353 – Frederick County – Elderly or Disabled Renters – Grants
House Ways and Means Committee
February 6, 2020

The Coordinating Center (The Center) supports *House Bill 353 – Frederick County – Elderly or Disabled Renters - Grants*. This bill adds Frederick County to the list of local jurisdictions that may provide rental assistance grants to older adults and individuals with disabilities.

The Center is an independent, care coordination organization with over 35 years of experience, coordinating services for more than 10,000 people with disabilities and complex medical needs across the state. While much of the work conducted by The Center is funded through public and private partnerships with State agencies, hospital systems, and other health care entities, securing affordable housing options for individuals with disabilities and complex medical needs continues to be one of The Center's greatest challenges. This is due to shortages in housing subsidies and a lack of affordable housing options, particularly housing options that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

For many individuals with significant disabilities and complex medical needs, housing assistance available through subsidies and vouchers are oftentimes the only means by which an individual may remain independent in their community. In most cases, there are multi-year waiting lists for housing assistance. This bill will allow Frederick County with another option in supporting individuals with disabilities access affordable rental housing.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If you need any additional information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at (410) 693-4000 or rfaulkner@policypartners.net.

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