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BILL NO.: **SB 117**

TITLE: Workgroup on Minority Homeownership, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Household Wealth Equity

SPONSOR: Senator Sydnor

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 9, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 117 – Workgroup on Minority Homeownership, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Household Wealth Equity. This legislation would establish a workgroup studying minority homeownership, neighborhood revitalization, and household wealth equity.

The persistent struggles of homelessness and housing insecurity in the state have only been made worse by the pandemic. This is particularly apparent in minority communities who face additional burdens rooted in structural housing inequality. Baltimore County has worked to keep residents in their homes during the pandemic through eviction prevention and legal aid initiatives, and has used this focus on housing resources as an opportunity to begin investigating long term solutions to promote homeownership. This work must continue beyond the pandemic and above the scope of what a single jurisdiction can accomplish.

This legislation would establish a work group that will focus on creative, long term solutions for improving minority homeownership, neighborhood revitalization, and household wealth equity. Priorities of this work group include assessing the State’s rate of homeownership and the availability of unoccupied housing, researching barriers to home ownership, and studying the impact of homeownership on neighborhood revitalization and generational wealth.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 117. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.