

KYM TAYLOR
Legislative District 23
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 3, 2023

Supporting Testimony for HB 1050, Access to Counsel in Evictions - Funding

Appropriations Committee

Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Kym Taylor, representing District 23 in Prince George's County.

I am excited to present HB1050 ~ Access to Counsel in Evictions Funding

Simply, this bill ensures permanent funding for the **Access to Council in Evictions (ACE) Program** which requires the Maryland Legal Services Corporation provide access to counseling services for low-income Marylanders facing eviction proceedings. The funding is used to reimburse providers in the ACE Program for legal services rendered to assist qualified individuals who are facing eviction.

The General Assembly established the ACE Program in 2021 and last year we directly funded the Program from the Abandoned Property Fund. That funding runs out in Fiscal Year 2024. Without consistent funding, it is impossible to achieve the ACE Program's goal of full implementation by October 2025.

HB1050 provides ongoing, stable funding for the ACE Program by making the \$14,000,000 distribution from the Abandoned Property Fund a permanent distribution. Making this funding permanent enables ACE to fully staff, address infrastructure needs and allows low-income Marylanders the opportunity to access legal support that is typically outside their financial reach.

I ask for your favorable consideration.

Del Kym Taylor