

HB 562 - SUPPORT

Human Services - Temporary Cash Assistance - Housing Allowance
Hearing of the House Appropriations Committee
February 28, 2023

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

My name is Soriyai Murphy and I live in Baltimore City and am speaking on behalf of myself and many of my friends who are families I know experiencing homelessness right now.

I support House Bill 562 because we deserve more and there would be less homeless people if there was a TCA Housing Allowance because it would help more families get out of shelters and hotels. The extra benefit would help us afford rent. Rent is going up, cost of living and food have gone up, daycare is extremely expensive, but the TCA benefit has not increased to match those costs and that is why no one can afford rent. What am I supposed to do with a \$700 check for three kids when a two-bedroom costs \$2,000 to rent? I am experiencing homelessness and I have a disability and I had to spend days going back and forth with the Department of Social Services just to get approved for TCA. DSS threatened to close my TCA case because they wanted me to go to a work program even though I am unable to work right now due to my disability and lack of child care and stable housing.

Thank you for listening and please vote in favor of House Bill 562.