



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0315:

**Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation
Fund - Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act
of 2023)**

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair, and the members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 14, 2023

This bill, in part, establishes a fund to provide loans from State matching funds for local housing authorities throughout the State to develop mixed-income, cross-subsidized housing. This would increase the volume of housing units available to lower income households.

Affordable housing is increasingly impossible for low-income households to find. As a result, many households are forced to be homeless. Such a situation is intolerable for anyone. Affordable housing is an important element that enables a household to thrive. We believe that each person is a beloved child of God and deserves dignity and respect. Affordable housing would assist in achieving that goal.

We respectfully request a favorable report.