



February 13, 2023

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for House Bill 976– Custodial Interrogation of Minors – Admissibility of Statements.

This bill requires the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of General Services, to adopt certain regulations on or before June 1, 2025, establishing uniform standards for mold assessment and remediation.

It is widely recognized that housing instability can have a significant negative impact on a person's physical and mental well-being. Housing instability comes in many forms including moving frequently, overcrowding, spending the majority of income on housing (cost-burdened households), or living in substandard or poorly maintained homes. In the United States, Black and Hispanic people are almost twice as likely as White households to be cost-burdened. In Maryland, more than 45% of severely cost-burdened renters describe themselves as Black. This bill helps to address a gap in our housing policy by creating standards for mold assessment and remediation. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 976.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland