



**Testimony to the House Environment & Transportation Committee  
HB 460 – Dept. of Housing and Community Development – Racial Equity  
Impact Assessment  
Position: FAVORABLE  
February 21, 2023**

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HB 460 would require DHCD to hire an experienced consultant to develop an annual assessment tool to ensure that DHCD financial assistance is being equitably invested in communities with the most need and in communities with high concentrations of poverty. As the State's housing agency responsible for setting and implementing housing policy for the State, as well as the agency that administers the state's financial assistance programs for first time homebuyers, neighborhood revitalization, and multifamily housing that serves our lowest income populations, it is extremely important that such an assessment be conducted. There is a history of housing discrimination in our country, and this type of assessment will help ensure that not only are the state's programs fair and equitable, but also serving Marylanders who need them most. State funds should be used to deconcentrate poverty, revitalize older communities in distress, help families become homeowners and build wealth, and provide safe and stable rental housing for those who need it most. This assessment will help ensure those goals are achieved and direct future housing policy and spending to underserved areas or populations.

MAHC is the leading organization for the affordable rental housing industry in Maryland and represents over 185 member organizations, including nonprofit and for-profit developers, State and local housing authorities, property management companies, financial institutions, community development organizations, contractors, tax credit investors, consultants and individuals.

**Respectfully submitted on February 21, 2023 by Miranda Darden-Willems, Executive Director, on behalf of the MAHC Board of Directors.**

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