

February 21, 2023

Statement on House Bill 460
Department of Housing and Community Development - Racial Equity Impact Assessment
House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Support

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1500 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support House Bill 460 to further efforts for racial and social equity, and access to safe and affordable housing for all Marylanders.

Maryland has had a shameful history of racist and discriminatory housing practices, from zoning and development planning that effectively discriminated against racial minorities and lower income families to allowing exclusionary private covenants.

A just society in Maryland, and our future growth, well-being and economic prosperity can only be assured when everyone regardless of age, race, religion, socio-economic background, gender identity, location, or disability, can share fairly in a prosperous and inclusive economy without race-based or other structural barriers that impede them.

The failure to redress the continuing effects of systemic racism, economic unfairness, and other social inequities has led to even further harm during the COVID-19 pandemic that has disproportionately affected people of color directly in terms of illness, death, and economic losses.

Consideration of proposed policies, and reviews of current policy structures and practices, should always include the assessment of their direct and indirect impacts on the health, opportunities and quality of life of all affected individuals and communities. The inequities of past policies, intentional or not, only heighten the importance of this legislation.

We urge you to give House Bill 460 a favorable report.