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Written Testimony
HB1224 - Housing – Community Development Program Act –
Funding
Appropriations Committee – February 27, 2024
Support

Background: House Bill 599 would require the Comptroller to distribute \$5,000,000 to the Community Development Program Fund; and repeal the provision providing for the construction of certain Acts of the General Assembly concerning the Community Development Program Act.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. This includes Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI), a housing and community development agency that promotes stable communities for Jewish residents and their neighbors in Northwest Baltimore and other designated areas. Their many projects help create and maintain affordable housing; improve public spaces; encourage neighborhood investment; and enhance quality of life.

The need for affordable housing is far-reaching. Though the Maryland poverty rate has decreased 6.8% over the past 10 years, it still ranks among one of the higher poverty rates in the country. Requiring the Comptroller to distribute \$5 million to the Community Development Program Fund will help to ensure that we are bridging the gap in housing affordability and neighborhood revitalization.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB599.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.