



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 428
FAVORABLE**

**Community Schools - Rental Assistance for Community School
Families Program and Fund - Establishment**

**TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair, Delegate Mark S. Chang, Co-Chair, and
members of the Appropriations Committee**

FROM: Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Jr., Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 2, 2024:

The Episcopal Church at large and the Diocese of Maryland have declared that basic human rights include the right to a quality education, quality and affordable health care and access to adequate and affordable housing.

While the economic benefits derived from the commodification of these and other rights fall to the relatively select few, the profits are provided by those who often must decide between paying rent, or buying food, or accessing health care. The family home is the basic building block of our society. And if we make that a luxury for those who can afford it, what hope do we have of sustaining any semblance of a civil and just society?

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report on HB 428.