



Testimony HB 172
House Environmental and Transportation Committee
January 28, 2024
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland's community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland's urban, suburban and rural communities. CDN envisions a state in which all communities are thriving and where people of all incomes have abundant opportunities for themselves and their families.

HB 172 - Community Health and Safety Works (CHSW) program supports projects that improve the physical environment that impacts health and safety to improve the livability and economic potential of Maryland communities. Through the program, local governments and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are eligible for grant funding to implement crime prevention strategies through physical design improvements, operational activities, and through community vigilance and maintenance.

These grants support projects from Baltimore city to Garrett County that improve the health and safety of communities. From lighting to planting, these investments are significant small investments for community and local government projects.

Investments encourage promising practices and transformative partnerships that improve neighborhood conditions and prioritization of community owned strategies can tackle the root causes of racial health disparities and environmental health.

We urge your favorable report for HB 172.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director