

February 4, 2024

Tara Brooky
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TESTIMONY ON HB0093 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

**Housing and Community Development – Homeless Shelter Certification Program
– Establishment**

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Tara Brooky

My name is Tara Brooky. I am a resident of District 43A. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0093 for the establishment of the Housing Shelter Certification Program.

I have been a Baltimore City resident since choosing to move 600 miles away from my hometown in order to attend Loyola University Maryland.

Baltimore reminds me a lot of Detroit, the city my family immigrated to a hundred years ago. Both cities are scrappy and full of grit. The charm is from the hard-workers who made them thriving industry towns, and the neighborly love which continues to unite all of their residents.

Growing up around Detroit, I learned the power of serving others. Using my time to cook and clean for people who were economically downtrodden showed me the strength and resilience in community. This lesson in the power of community deepened significantly during my time at Loyola and in the City of Baltimore.

To me, HB0093 is a step towards the Beloved Community that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of in his pleas for peace. Ensuring the dignity and safety for shelter residents, employees, and volunteers through a certification program is an acknowledgment of humanity in a political climate torn by so much “other-ing” of one another.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0093.