



February 27, 2020

House Appropriations Capital Subcommittee
Testimony in Opposition to HB 152 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2020
Re: National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program and
Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund

Dear Chairman Chang:

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 neighborhoods are thriving and where people of all incomes have abundant opportunities for themselves and their families.

We urge the committee to reject the proposals in the budget to:

- 1) Eliminate funding for and repeal the establishment of the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program; and
- 2) Halve the funding for the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund and remove the funding mandate.

Amendment No. 1

On page 5 delete in their entirety lines 5 through 8.

Amendment No. 2

On page 18 delete in their entirety lines 9 through 16.

National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program funds are critical to the work that our members do in the DC metropolitan area. This funding supports projects in first generation suburbs of Prince George's and Montgomery counties that need revitalization. I want to urge your committee to think about children and elderly in these areas of the state that need revitalization.

Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund provides competitive grants and loans to anchor institutions for community development projects in blighted areas of the state. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education and healthcare institutions. Formal and informal collaborations between anchor institutions and community-based organizations help to lower poverty and increase the opportunity rate throughout the state. As a nation, we are getting sicker and more isolated as a nation – these collaborations reduce disease, increase achievement and reduce healthcare costs. Do not turn your back on these investments as they bring needed resources.

Claudia Wilson Randall, Associate Director, Community Development Network