



**Testimony SB 387 –  
Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act Funding  
February 12, 2019  
Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and the Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

We urge this committee to vote a favorable report for SB 387 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding SB 387 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created during the 2018 legislative session. The funding will be critical operating dollars to use for community development organizations to apply for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more. The funding source is \$5 million from surplus of the Unclaimed Property Fund.

Unity Properties is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bon Secours Mercy Health, a national health care system. For the past 25 years, Unity has led a coalition of community-based development in Southwest Baltimore. Working with partners, we have developed over 800 units of affordable housing for seniors and families, as well as addressed crime, grime, and open space issues of concern to the neighborhoods around Bon Secours Hospital. We want to do more of this work and develop more housing, but we need vital operating support.

Please vote a favorable report for SB 387

Respectfully Submitted:

*George Kleb*

George Kleb, Executive Director  
Unity Properties