



**Testimony HB 472 –
Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act Funding
February 11, 2019
Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Barve and the Members of the House Environment & Transportation:

The Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc. (SMMCOCFDN) requests this committee to vote a favorable report for HB 472 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding HB 472 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.

The SMMCOCFDN is an All-Volunteer organization created to make the community a better place for all. We support, educate, and serve the minority business, farming, entrepreneurial community in Southern Maryland, which includes the southern parts of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties and all of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. SMMCOCFDN could have a greater impact, if additional operating funding was available.

Please vote a favorable report for HB 472.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doris J. Cammack-Spencer
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Executive Director