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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 203**

**TITLE:**               Community Parks and Playgrounds Program - Baltimore  
County and Howard County - Expansion

**SPONSOR:**           Delegate Feldmark

**COMMITTEE:**       Environment and Transportation

**POSITION:**         **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**               February 21, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 203 – Community Parks and Playgrounds Program - Baltimore County and Howard County - Expansion. This legislation expands eligibility for the State’s Community Parks and Playgrounds (CPP) Program to include Baltimore County and Howard County.

Baltimore County’s parks and playgrounds provide a safe place for all of our residents to play outdoors and improve the quality of life for surrounding communities. Currently, the CPP Program applies only to municipal corporations within the State. This presents a significant problem for Baltimore County, which has no municipalities within its borders. Counties that qualify for both this program and Program Open Space are placed in a better position to leverage their funding for quality projects, despite having similar or fewer needs for State assistance than Baltimore County.

These funds were more widely available until approximately a decade ago, and Baltimore County has a history of being a good steward of these funds. The County utilized these funds during its last comprehensive playground renovation program, which concluded in 2005. The lifespan of a typical playground is 15-20 years, and the County now faces a pressing need to address its outdated and deteriorating playgrounds. In response, County Executive Olszewski has initiated a renewed focus on capital projects to replace these playgrounds. Being considered for CPP funds could significantly supplement these projects, aiding the County in its ability to provide quality of life improvements for its shared constituents.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 203. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.

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