



SENATE BILL 530: The HOME Act – SUPPORT
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, February 4, 2020

Testimony of Kelly Cimino, Director, kcimino@howardcountymd.gov
as a Member of the Baltimore Regional Fair Housing Group

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 530, which prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of housing based on a person's source of income. As a member of the Baltimore Regional Fair Housing Group, I support this legislation.

Howard County enacted a source of income law in 1992. This law enables families with housing choice vouchers to live in any community in our county and supports opportunities to deconcentrate poverty, help students be more successful in school and contribute to the diversity our County strives to achieve.

The Baltimore Regional Fair Housing Group is collaborating with other HUD entitlement jurisdictions in the Baltimore region to prepare a Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Plan (AI) to affirmatively further fair housing and promote housing equity in the region. Enacting a statewide source of income law will help achieve one of the AI action items of promoting fair housing choice and leveling the playing field for property owners and voucher holders across the state.

SUPPORT for SB 530 is appreciated. Thank you.