



**Olivia Bartlett, Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team**

**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters

**TESTIMONY ON:** HB0379 - Public Utilities – Low–Income Housing – Energy Performance Targets

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

**HEARING DATE:** February 4, 2021

**BILL CONTACT:** Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all the members of our communities healthy and safe in a clean environment, uplift all members of our communities, and promote equity across all our communities. DTMG strongly supports HB0379 because it will help improve homes and decrease energy costs for many low-income families.

Heating and cooling of residential buildings is a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Maryland. In order to meet Maryland’s GHG reduction goals, we must do everything we can to reduce energy use by residential buildings. One way to do that is to make sure all our homes and apartments are as energy efficient as possible. Many low-income families cannot afford to upgrade their heating or cooling systems, weatherize their homes, install insulation, etc. Many families also live in rental units and rely on their landlords to do energy efficiency upgrades to the property.

Maryland has several programs to assist low-income homeowners and owners of rental units improve energy efficiency. HB0379 will increase Maryland’s targets for weatherization of low-income housing, add greater equity to the State’s energy efficiency investments, and coordinate investments of health and safety funding sources. These changes will improve indoor air quality and decrease the energy burden for low-income families while contributing to an overall reduction in energy use and GHG emissions in the state. Promoting weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades of our residential buildings also create jobs for Marylanders that can only be done in Maryland.

HB0379 is good for families, good for the environment, and good for the economy. Therefore, DoTheMostGood strongly recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0379.

Respectfully submitted,

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