CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City
————
Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3165
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

<u>Vote Yes on Senate Bill 699</u>

Bill Title: Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund

Hearing Date: February 23, 2021 - Education, Health, and Environmental Matters Committee

Chair: The Honorable Paul Pinsky; Vice Chair: The Honorable Cheryl Kagan

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 699. The Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program promotes investment in local housing and businesses, and sustainable communities. The Program seeks to make investments in previously underinvested communities to enhance the quality of life in Baltimore City and surrounding jurisdictions. Community Development Organizations in the Metropolitan Area have greatly benefited from funding, impacting neighborhood revitalization. Projects eligible for funding include:

1. Projects that provide down payment assistance to attract homebuyers
2. Projects that seek to reduce blight
3. Projects that seek to ensure that communities are sustainable
4. Development projects that incorporate housing, office, and retail space
5. And community enhancement projects.

The purpose of Senate Bill 699 is to extend the requirement to provide an annual appropriation of $12M in the State budget for the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund through fiscal year 2026, as current law only ensures that funds are appropriated through fiscal year 2022.

In efforts to improve our communities and positively impact the quality of life of residents, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 699.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory V. McCray
State Senator