

Brian Kramer Favorable Testimony on HB1090

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation committee:

I hope this finds you well. My name is Brian Kramer, and I'm a sophomore at American University studying political science and secondary education with a goal of becoming a Maryland public school teacher after graduation. I'm writing to you today to urge a favorable testimony for Delegate Stewart's HB1090, a bill I've had the pleasure to testify before you about and directly work on for many years.

Housing is deeply personal to me both as a lifelong Marylander who has experienced homelessness and unstable housing and as a future educator who wants my students to be safe and secure. Despite being the wealthiest state in the wealthiest country in the world, Maryland still has many unhoused residents that have fallen through the cracks. We can and we must do something about it, and HB1090 puts us on a great path to doing so. By taking lessons learned from successful public housing policy from Vienna, Austria and others, our state can start to get serious about the crisis that is homelessness.

When I was unhoused and hopping between shelters with my mom as a thirteen-year-old, I had no idea I would end up on the path I'm on today. I've been extremely fortunate to have overcome challenges in my life, but so many others will unfortunately never do so. I speak for them when I urge this committee to adopt bold, common-sense policy that will make Maryland a leader in the fight to house all our neighbors. I cannot stress enough how important it is that we ensure no other children go through the experiences I have. It's not easy for me to remember how scared I was that my mom and I would never have our own place to live ever again, but I share my story because it's the reality of so many Marylanders that are rarely heard from.

Not only will this bill put Maryland on a path to truly combatting homelessness by putting the resources of the government to work, but it will also make us a leader in the wider movement for quality and affordable housing. It's extremely expensive to live in this state, and Maryland should absolutely take steps to directly combat this. For so many Marylanders, the extreme costs of rent can place a burden on them and keep them closer to becoming unhoused than any government should allow. People want quality housing, and HB1090 will help us make this a reality for many.

It's been incredible to share my story with this committee since I first testified in 2019. We've come a long way with this legislation, and I commend Delegate Stewart and others for constantly fighting for a cause I care so deeply about. **I urge this committee to issue a favorable report for HB1090.** Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my testimony.

Kind regards,

Brian Kramer

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