



LifeStyles, Inc.

February 11, 2021

To; Charles County Delegation

From: Sandy Washington
LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc.
Executive Director

Subject: Written Testimony on HB 1061

Please accept our written testimony regarding HB 1061. LifeStyles, Inc. is a non-profit that has served the Southern Maryland area for over twenty-six years. While LifeStyles is focused on housing and homelessness, we recognize the importance of establishing a standard for habitable living. Oftentimes a bad dwelling is not better than no dwelling. Please note we know folks that literally have to crawl into their living space. There is no heat, no air, and no running water. While they are paying rent, they do not have a home. They have a place to lay their heads.

We must assure that those receiving funds for rental property are meeting and adhering to a form of accountability. HB-1061 will address this. While we want to encourage landlords to continue to provide housing for those in need, guidelines and safety measures must be in place. Landlords should have a sense of pride in the dwellings being provided. A sense of pride may be subjective therefore mandates must be put in place. Unless we enact legislation such as HB 1061 substandard living situations will continue.

Process and procedures can be developed through collaborative efforts between all parties; however, it should not be a barrier to enacting this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sandy O. Washington
Executive Director

LifeStyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc.
101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 103
P.O. Box 1794
La Plata, Maryland 20646
www.lifestylesofmd.org
301-609-9900/301-609-9800 (Fax)
866-293-0623 Toll Free