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County Executive

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BILL NO.: **HB 499**

TITLE: Rental Housing Restitution Fund - Establishment

SPONSOR: Delegate Rosenberg

COMMITTEE: Environmental and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 2, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 499 – Rental Housing Restitution Fund – Establishment. This legislation would establish a fund for the purpose of providing rental assistance and legal support to individuals facing a potential rental residential property eviction.

The pandemic has highlighted significant gaps in housing policy which further perpetuate the struggle tenants face. Pandemic rent, mortgage relief and eviction prevention measures led by Baltimore County Executive Olszewski have helped keep residents in their homes, but without State assistance are only band aids on a larger issue. Safe and secure housing is vital for the health and livelihood of county residents. Important housing assistance is essential to maintaining the quality of life residents deserve on the road to recovery post-pandemic.

HB 499 would establish the Rental Housing Restitution Fund to provide aid to those struggling with secure housing. This fund would supplement legal assistance to tenants who are facing eviction. It would also provide rental assistance to prevent evictions, keeping people in their homes during these unprecedented times.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 499. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.