



## CHRYSALIS HOUSE INC.

Supporting Women and Their Children Through Recovery Since 1986

### Testimony on Senate Bill 683

I am writing in support of Senator Cheryl Kegan's. Senate Bill 683, The "Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations (RENO) Loan Program," Chrysalis House, Inc. provides treatment services for women struggling with substance use and mental health disorders, All of our women – and their dependent children- are on Medicaid and other forms of state health insurance. Just over the past three sessions your Committee has approved two legislative bond bills and a capitals appropriation from the Governor's Maryland Department of Health capital budget for funding for a major expansion of our facilities in Crownsville. It is well underway. Thank you.

SB683 would create an interest-free, revolving loan fund, housed within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), to help nonprofits with purchasing renewable energy systems. These general funds of \$50 million for Maryland nonprofit organizations to obtain solar panels come will from the President's infrastructure bill. Each nonprofit must demonstrate that it can invest 10% of the cost when it submits its application to MEA. The loan would be repaid on a regular basis through the savings on electricity bills.

Most Maryland nonprofits of our size or smaller would need to access if tis present investment would make sense over the long term. Many of us have aging facilities, so any future renovations might include this initiative. In any event, such a fund as envisioned by SB 683 would be an overall benefit to our state and our environment, Maryland nonprofit health and human service agencies deserve this opportunity to invest its future with its partner. We recognize how important each dollar is to our ongoing financial health and such energy savings by reducing utility bills is welcomed.

As a former member of the Maryland Senate, I appreciate the careful balance The Budget and Taxation Committee must have in considering worthwhile projects and Pilot ideas which invariably have a cost implication. I am grateful to Senator Kagan for her foresight and for her long-standing support of Maryland's nonprofit community.

Respectfully Submitted, February 28, 2022

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(Former Maryland state senator and secretary, Md. Department of Human Resources)