



**Testimony SB 629**  
**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**February 21, 2022**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland's community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland's urban, suburban and rural communities. CDN envisions a state in which all communities are thriving and where people of all incomes have abundant opportunities for themselves and their families.

**SB 629** – Requires the Judiciary to collect data for possession of residential property and share eviction data with the Department of Housing and Community Development every 2 weeks. The bill further requires the Department to make eviction data available to a State agency or an academic institution located in the State.

Maryland does not have one place where statewide eviction data is collected and analyzed. Currently, the Maryland Judiciary only publishes county level eviction filings and outcomes a month after they happen. Data are critical for analysis to target community and state interventions as well as for an efficient civil legal system.

Because there is no state mandate or framework for stewarding eviction data, jurisdictions vary in types of data they collect and make available. As a result, it is difficult to make cross-jurisdictional comparisons or to compare data from the county level to the state level. Further, Maryland is not included in any state comparative analysis, including Eviction Lab which was the first national database created to help neighbors and policymakers understand the eviction.

As the state invest hundreds of millions in eviction prevention funds, it is critical for Maryland policy makers at the local and state level to know the effectiveness of the programs by having data to measure their interventions. This is only a first step to addressing the complex issue that is evictions.

Over the past decade, research shows that evictions reinforce poverty and limit housing opportunities for Maryland's most economically vulnerable. The stain of an eviction sets women of color on a path of housing insecurity that limits educational and economic opportunities, and increases health problems for them and their families.

We ask that the committee issue a favorable report on SB 629.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director, Community Development Network