



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**Senate Bill 0744**  
**Housing and Community Development – Affordable Housing**  
**– Listing and Disposal of Excess Real Property**  
**Education, Health and Environmental Committee – March 10, 2022**  
**SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2022 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic Clubs in our County with hundreds of politically active women and men, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of SB0744 – Housing and Community Development – Affordable Housing – Listing and Disposal of Excess Real Estate. As identified in the *Maryland Housing Needs Assessment and 10-Year Strategic Plan*, Maryland currently lacks 85,000 affordable housing units and will gain an additional 97,000 low-income households by 2030. The State of Maryland currently owns more than 14,000 pieces of real property. Some of these properties may be suitable for reuse or development for affordable housing. This bill would require the state to identify state-owned properties that could be used for affordable housing and to publish an inventory of those properties.

SB0744 would aid minority groups, especially African Americans and indigenous people, who experience homelessness at higher rates than Whites, according to The National Alliance to End Homelessness. These minority households, particularly those headed by women, also spend a disproportionate percentage of their income on housing. Research has linked the absence of adequate affordable housing to greater transmission and mortality rates from COVID-19. An increase in the supply of affordable housing could help alleviate these disadvantages.

Innovations in affordable housing solutions, such as the ones in SB0744, would help foster a healthier and more equitable society. **Therefore, we ask for your support for HB0927 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.**

Respectfully,

Leslie Milano  
President Leslie Milano

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