



Testimony of Todd Travis
President and Chief Operating Officer, Foundation Housing
Before the Senate Finance Committee
March 8, 2022

**SUPPORT Senate Bill 743 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Affordable Assisted Living
Enhanced Care Pilot Program**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write today to offer support for Senate Bill 743 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Pilot Program.

Since the inception of our organization in 1990, Foundation Housing has been integrally involved in the recapitalization and preservation of more than 55,000 units of multifamily housing in the United States. Our goal is the creation of communities where residents can live affordably and with dignity. Foundation Housing reinforces its mission through the acquisition, redevelopment, and improved operations of affordable housing for low and moderate income Americans. Through our 509(a)(3) supporting organizations, we have acquired portfolios of properties in 20 states and Washington, DC with numerous projects pending nationwide.

This legislation establishes a new and innovative pilot program that leverages Medicaid funding to pay for services to attract developers and investors such as us to build assisted living communities for our low-income seniors. By stimulating collaboration and partnership between the public and private sectors, this bill would take an “out of the box” approach to tackling head on the enormous wait list Maryland is facing currently for those vulnerable seniors seeking care through the Home and Community Based Services Waiver – one that is over 26,000 people at this time and has been that way for the past decade-plus.

In essence, this bill establishes a pilot program by which we can offer a cost-effective additional option for those in need of care and support. It is being done in DC currently and there is no reason we cannot do the same in Maryland. It is time to start looking at a different approach to addressing the tremendous need evidenced by the current backlog.

On behalf of Foundation Housing and the individuals we serve, I ask that you support this innovative effort and move favorable on this important piece of legislation.