



MARYLAND MULTI-HOUSING ASSOCIATION, INC.

House Bill 724

Committee: Judiciary
Date: February 16, 2022
Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of the Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA). MMHA is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose members consist of owners and managers of more than 210,000 rental housing homes in over 958 apartment communities. Our members house over 538,000 residents of the State of Maryland. MMHA also represents over 250 associate member companies who supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry.

House Bill 724 (“HB 724”) directs \$11.8M in FY 2023 to the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund. MMHA’s position on funding for the Access to Counsel in Evictions Program (“A2C Program”) has been consistent. Based on a sound budget analysis and implementation plan, MMHA supports allocation of funds to the A2C Program that do not burden housing providers who provide critical services to Maryland’s residents. **To that end, HB 724 is certainly a more appropriate method to fund the A2C Program than unrecoverable court costs being levied against housing providers that are exercising their right to access the impartial judicial system.**

Please note that MMHA’s support of HB 724 does not equal an endorsement of the budget analysis conducted by certain legal entities, which was based upon a report authored by the for-profit consulting firm Stout, Risius, Ross, LLC. Based on a sound budget analysis and implementation plan, MMHA expects that the \$11.8M allocated in HB 724 will support the A2C Program for multiple years.