



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB186**  
**Victim Services Programs – Supplementing Federal Funding and  
Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act)**

January 27, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony of Marian House in Support of HB186**

**Dear Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee,**

Marian House is a holistic, healing community for women and their children who are in need of housing and support services. Marian House provides comprehensive support services to assist women with experiences of trauma, including poverty, substance abuse, and chronic mental health issues. **I write to urge you to support House Bill 186 – Victim Services Stabilization Act.**

Over forty years ago, Marian House was opened to provide reentry supports for women leaving incarceration as Sisters and laywomen recognized that lack of support contributed to recidivism rates. Today, we have also expanded to serve women with histories of trauma including homelessness, incarceration, neglect, substance abuse and mental health needs. Since our opening, we have assisted women who have been victims of crime in reinventing and rebuilding themselves through services such as: counseling, substance abuse treatment, job training and providing both long and short-term housing. All the women we have served have overcome obstacles on their journeys to become contributing members of society in the Baltimore area.

In FY22 Marian House served sixty-six women in our transitional housing program. Of those sixty-six, 45% were victims of crime and received services through VOCA funding. Of these women 87% successfully completed the Marian House program, having participated in individual and group therapy, completed therapeutic and educational classes, gained employment and increased income.

By supporting HB186, Maryland's most vulnerable populations will have greater access to these support services that have the funding they need to function. On behalf of the women we serve at Marian House, I respectfully urge you to take the call to action in **SUPPORT of HB186.**

Thank you for your support,

Katie Allston, LCSW-C  
President and C.E.O.