



Network for Developing Conscious Communities
28 46th Place North East, Washington, DC 20019
www.ndccnetwork.org

Testimony

SB 643 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

April 4, 2023

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

SB 643 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created in 2018. The funding is critical operating dollars for community-based organizations to use for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more.

We are seeking \$5 million from the Unclaimed Property Fund after usual disbursements have been made.

Network for Developing Conscious Communities (NDCC) supports HB 838 Housing Community Development Fund Program Act Funding. NDCC has worked on the design and implementation of racially equitable community development practices, which connects local racially based dis-invested neighborhoods of color on developing a framework to increase Black led organizational capacity, expand technical knowledge and abilities and structuring greater access to financial capital.

We believe that equitable development should be measured and guided by defined equitable development principles, and that Maryland government financial support is needed for indigenous grassroots stakeholders and localized organizations.

Please vote a favorable report for **SB 643**.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ron Hantz
Executive Director
Network for Developing Conscious Communities
ronhantz@ndccnetwork.org