



March 31, 2023

**SB643 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

APRIL 4, 2023

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Housing Unlimited urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **SB632 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

SB643 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.

My organization, Housing Unlimited, based in Silver Spring, Maryland, has a great need for operating assistance. As you know, our mission is to provide permanent, affordable independent housing for very low income adults in mental health recovery in Montgomery County. We currently serve 236 individuals in 86 scattered-site shared homes. Because we serve extremely low income individuals (many coming to us from Montgomery County homeless shelters), we charge very low rents. Consequently, our rental revenue covers only 75% of our annual organizational operating expenses. We therefore must raise 25% of our annual operating budget needs each year from public and private sources (this amounts to over \$700,000 this year). A Nonprofit Sustainability Fund would provide critical operating support funds to organizations like Housing Unlimited that serve vulnerable individuals in our communities.

Please vote a favorable report for SB643.

Respectfully Submitted:

Abe Schuchman, CEO  
Housing Unlimited

*Housing Unlimited, Inc. has received Maryland Nonprofits' Seal of Excellence for completing the Standards of Excellence Program. We proudly display this logo to demonstrate our commitment to upholding the highest standards of ethics and accountability in the nonprofit sector.*