



Honorable Members of the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

I am writing to express my unwavering support and testify for Senate Bill 0874, which aims to establish the Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development. As the director of Deep Roots family homeless shelter in Earleville, Maryland, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of the Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program. Your dedication to providing financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible nonprofits and community organizations is a testament to your unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable community members.

Our shelter has received tremendous benefits from a past grant where we were able to install cameras and lighting around our 20-acre property. Prior to these security measures, our staff, volunteers, and homeless families and children were in constant danger of becoming victims of crime. Many of our families come to the shelter from abusive relationships, and we have received numerous threats in the past. Without proper lighting and surveillance, we were a prime target for perpetrators of crime. But thanks to the grant, we were able to create a safe and secure environment for everyone at the shelter.

The Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program has been a game-changer for our organization and others like us. The funding has allowed us to make significant improvements to our facilities, ensuring the safety and well-being of those we serve. It is heartening to know that our elected officials recognize the vital importance of such programs, which make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of those who need it the most.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 0874 and pass it into law. With this program, we can create safer communities for our most vulnerable members and provide a lifeline to those in need. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of our fellow Marylanders.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to creating a safer and more just world for all.

Kind regards,

John Thompson  
Executive Director  
Deep Roots