

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 186: *Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund*
Budget and Taxation Committee, January 25, 2023 –FAVORABLE
Ann Mazur, Chief Executive Officer, EveryMind

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Ann Mazur and I am the Chief Executive Officer of EveryMind, a mental health nonprofit serving over 30,000 individuals operating across the State of Maryland. Our programs include operation of one of the eight core Suicide Prevention Lifeline centers in the State, veteran suicide prevention and care coordination through our ServingTogether program, and community education such as Mental Health First Aid through EveryMind's Education department.

EveryMind supports Senate Bill 186, which would establish an interest-free revolving loan fund that would provide financial assistance for the purchase and installation of alternative energy technologies. Maryland has an estimated 32,000 nonprofits. Many of these organizations actively contribute to reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions through careful management of their own operations as well as education and advocacy aimed at the general public and policymakers. We could do more. One limitation is the lack of capital to invest in renewable energy technology. This fund would provide a resource that nonprofits could tap to support investment in equipment, software, and technical assistance and ultimately reduce overhead costs. It is a step in the right direction, and should prove helpful to midsized and larger nonprofits such as EveryMind, which have the capacity to undertake such a project and which have operating budgets reflecting a significant investment from State and County governments. We hope that the Budget and Taxation Committee will continue to look at ways to make renewable energy more accessible to smaller nonprofits and for profits through subsidies and tax incentives which they could leverage more easily.

Please support SB 186. Thank you.