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Testimony

SB643 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE
March 8, 2023

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

Home Partnership (HP) 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.

HP is a community based nonprofit organization that works in and with rural communities of the Maryland Eastern Shore. Our services include counseling, financial literacy, homebuyer education, secondary financing, single- and multi-family/senior housing. The ability to provide these services on a sliding scale and freely, too often is limited by available operating resources, namely dollars. Turning needy Maryland citizens away is not our preference, but as operating resources lag behind families requiring these services, HP must face that difficult decision far too often. Rural needs are just as desperate and worthy of being addressed as others, and HP struggles to help families looking for shelter, trying to get children quality educations, and access to viable healthy options. Please consider casting your vote in favor of this important resource to nonprofits and working families of your community.

General operating support is the working capital nonprofits need to sustain their day-to-day operations. A lack of working capital prevents organizations from meeting basic operational needs, like payroll and rent. Please vote a favorable report for SB643.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'FRH', enclosed within a large, stylized blue oval or loop.

Frank R. Hodgetts,
President

Cc: file