



**Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 53:
Maryland Nonprofit Development Center Program – Nonprofit, Interest-Free, Micro Bridge Loan
(NIMBL) Account – Funding
Budget and Taxation Committee, January 19, 2023 –FAVORABLE**

Susie Sinclair-Smith, CEO, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. My name is Susie Sinclair-Smith and I am the CEO for Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. As the largest nonprofit providing homeless services, we understand the importance of advocacy on enabling nonprofits to serve the community and accomplish key missions like ending homelessness. We stand with many other nonprofits in supporting this legislation.

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) leads the effort to end homelessness in our community by creating housing options, providing supportive services, and facilitating collaboration, education and advocacy based on the belief that every person is entitled to the dignity of a home. We and other Nonprofits are essential partners to government, providing safety net and other services to all of Maryland’s residents. These past several years have shown how this partnership helped mitigate suffering and loss in our communities by ensuring funds were moved into place to address critical needs.

Without quick access to funds, nonprofits cannot pivot to address the situation at hand. Most nonprofits don’t have the financial reserves to float a major project with their own funds while waiting for their money to come through. The burden falls especially heavily on the organizations that most need this support—small community-based organizations, many of which are led by people of color.

The original legislation has been understood as making funding discretionary, which was not meant to be the case. The fund has also been capped at \$187,500; that is a very small amount compared to the 32,000 nonprofits that serve Maryland. This bill would restore funding to the \$1,000,000 level that was originally intended.

MCCH supports Senate Bill 153 so the NIMBL fund can do what it was intended and designed to do, allow nonprofits to address needs immediately.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Sinclair-Smith".

Susie Sinclair-Smith
CEO