



Senate Bill 756

Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Date: March 1st, 2023
Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of the Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA). MMHA is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose membership consists of owners and managers of more than 207,246 rental housing homes in more than 937 apartment communities. Our members house over 667,000 residents of the State of Maryland throughout the entire State of Maryland. MMHA membership also includes more than 216 associate members that supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry. More information is available at <https://www.mmhaonline.org/>

Senate Bill 756 (“SB 756”) directs \$14 million, starting in FY 2024, to the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund. MMHA’s position on funding for the Access to Counsel in Evictions Program (“A2C Program”) has been consistent. Based on a sound budget analysis and implementation plan, MMHA supports allocation of funds to the A2C Program that do not burden housing providers who provide critical services to Maryland’s residents. To that end, SB 756 is certainly a more appropriate method to fund the A2C Program than unrecoverable court costs being levied against housing providers that are exercising their right to access the impartial judicial system.

MMHA strongly encourages mandatory Access to Counsel Quarterly Reports as outlined on pages 5 and 6 of the [Joint Chairman’s FY 2023 State Operating Budget Report](#). Transparency in implementation is imperative for the success of the program.

Based on a sound budget analysis and implementation plan, MMHA expects that the \$14 million allocated in SB 756 will support the A2C Program for multiple years.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Chinelo Osakwe at 954-681-8743