



Testimony

HB 838 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

March 14, 2023

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

HB 838 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created in 2018. The funding is critical operating dollars for nonprofit 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.

Homes For America is a nonprofit housing organization headquartered here in Annapolis, with a mission to build and preserve quality affordable housing enhanced with services. We currently serve roughly 5,000 households in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

General operating support is the working capital nonprofits need to sustain their day-to-day operations. A lack of working capital can prevent organizations from meeting basic operational needs. Our current revenue sources are stressed in the current economic climate, which strains our ability to fund our resident services program.

Please vote a favorable report for HB 838.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dana Johnson
President & CEO
Homes for America, Inc.