



SOUTHEAST

community development corporation

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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:

Southeast Community Development Corporation urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **SB643 – 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 for critical operating dollars for community-based organizations to use for affordable housing development, 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.

Southeast CDC is dedicated to growing and supporting a thriving, socioeconomically, and racially diverse Southeast Baltimore where residents share in the improvement of their communities. We support the expansion of homeownership through housing counseling and housing development; prevent eviction with financial assistance and case management; manage the Community Schools strategy at five public schools; implement the Highlandtown Main Street program; coordinate the Highlandtown Arts and Entertainment District; improve quality of life through capital investments in public spaces, parks and business districts; and market Baltimore as a great place to live.

Creating and sustaining positive neighborhood change requires a multi-faceted strategy implemented by well-resourced community development organizations that have deep knowledge of neighborhood housing markets, economic development opportunities, and community priorities. Investing in the operations of community development organizations allows us to hire and retain an experienced workforce with the skills, knowledge and relationships necessary to tackle this important work. Please vote a favorable report for SB643.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari Snyder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kari Snyder, Executive Director