



February 13, 2023

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
101 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for House Bill 972– Custodial Interrogation of Minors – Admissibility of Statements.

This bill adds certain mold hazards to the list of dangerous conditions and defects for which a tenant can obtain relief under the State's rent escrow statute.

It is widely recognized that housing instability can have a significant negative impact on a person's physical and mental well-being. Housing instability comes in many forms including moving frequently, overcrowding, spending the majority of income on housing (cost-burdened households), or living in substandard or poorly maintained homes. In the United States, Black and Hispanic people are almost twice as likely as White households to be cost-burdened. In Maryland, more than 45% of severely cost-burdened renters describe themselves as Black. This bill helps to address a gap in our housing policy by creating standards for mold assessment and remediation. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 972.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland