



Testimony SB 874
Environment and Transportation Committee
March 28, 2023
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland's community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland's urban, suburban and rural communities.

SB 874 – Makes the Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program Fund a non-lapsing fund to provide financial assistance in the form of grants under the provisions of the Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program for certain eligible projects.

These grants provide the type of interdisciplinary intervention Maryland communities need to address crime, health, economic development and education in disinvested communities in the state. Evidence-based interventions that provide restorative life choices for at-risk individuals and activities that discourage illegal activities from communities and interrupt the cycle of violence have been funded by grants. These activities reinforce community ownership by cleaning and beautifying streets, sidewalks, signage, and parks; as well as organized patrols, and community policing initiatives developed in consultation with local law enforcement.

Our members throughout the state of Maryland have seen benefits from the investments of made by the Community Health and Safety Grant Program. Creating opportunities for healthy living makes a community stronger. Safe and healthy communities need investments to maintain supportive environments.

We ask your favorable report on SB 874 to continue this vital community investment.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director, Community Development Network