



# Governor's Family Violence Council

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

March 7, 2023

Chairman Kumar P. Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HOUSE BILL 1073 – Homeowner Assistance Fund – Victims of Domestic Violence  
– Eligibility**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

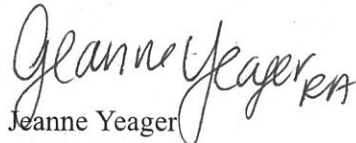
Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

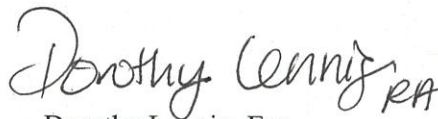
The Governor's Family Violence Council supports House Bill 1073, a bill that requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish special eligibility requirements under the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund for victims of domestic violence, a fund that assists homeowners struggling with their mortgage payments or other housing costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill also requires the Department to collect certain information from the victim to support an application for financial assistance. The bill allows the Department to partner with the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to develop the eligibility requirements.

House Bill 1073 will allow victims to receive the financial support they need to work towards self-sufficiency. Safe housing for victims of domestic violence is a necessity for the preservation of their health and well-being. Abusers often control their victims through financial means. The bill will allow victims of domestic violence to apply for financial assistance through the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund if their current or former spouse or cohabitant is unwilling to participate. House Bill 1073 aligns with the mission of the Governor's Family Violence Council which is to provide recommendations that will reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors.

For these reasons, the Governor's Family Violence Council urges a favorable report on House Bill 1073.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanne Yeager  
Chair

  
Dorothy Lennig, Esq.  
Vice-Chair