

HB 972

February 28, 2022

TO: Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

FROM: Janet Abrahams, Chief Executive Officer

RE: House Bill 972 - Landlord and Tenant - Rent Escrow - Mold in Residential Dwelling

Units

POSITION: Support

Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) **supports** House Bill 972 - Landlord and Tenant - Rent Escrow - Mold in Residential Dwelling Units.

House Bill 972 establishes adding 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.

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) supports HB 972 as mold is known to have adverse health outcomes. HABC currently has procedures in place in both its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs for addressing and responding to reports of mold and moisture infiltration that align with the intent of this legislation. This bill strengthens our commitment to addressing the health needs in our communities.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 972.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Abrahams, HABC President & CEO