



February 22, 2023

Senator Melony Griffith, Chairwoman
Finance Committee
3 East Wing Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer **favorable** support for Senate Bill 455 – Real Estate Appraisers - Licensing - Qualifications. **This bill is a 2023 legislative priority of the Black Caucus.**

This legislation will alter requirements for real estate appraisal licenses, establishing an alternative pathway to licensure satisfaction via the completion of the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal program.

As it stands today, Maryland’s requirements for appraisal licenses impose burdensome, uphill battles for many who seek to obtain, especially for individuals within the Black community. As such, there is alarming racial disparity in the number of appraisal licenses granted. There are several pressing concerns regarding bias in Maryland’s appraisal processes that must be addressed, and providing an alternative pathway to licensure is a critical part of the remedy and path forward. In supporting the passage of this legislation, we hope to increase the number of Black appraisers—opening opportunities, bolstering equal access to ownership, and providing a passageway to wealth: a benefit to all of Maryland’s communities.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports Senate Bill 455 and would appreciate your favorable support of this legislation.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland