



marylandnonprofits.org

1500 Union Avenue | Suite 2500 | Baltimore, MD 21211  
410.727.6367 | 800.273.6367 | Fax 410.235.2190

**February 23, 2023**

**Testimony on Senate Bill 420**  
**Human Services – Temporary Cash Assistance – Housing Allowance**  
**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1500 nonprofit organizations and institutions. **We urge you to support Senate Bill 420 to provide additional housing support to Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) recipients.**

Senate Bill 420 provides a housing allowance to households that are receiving temporary cash assistance or transitional support services and are not receiving a certain housing subsidy where the tenant's portion of rent is based on a percentage of the tenant's income; and requiring the continuation of a housing allowance for 6 months following the termination of temporary cash assistance if the household is receiving or is eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Renters are struggling to regain economic self-sufficiency in a pandemic economy:

1. Ripple effects from the pandemic are still causing financial disruptions. People are still missing hours at work due to COVID or COVID related closures.
2. Rent inflation skyrocketed during the pandemic, increasing 19% over two years in the Baltimore area alone.
3. Asset depletion and increasing rent debt is widespread among low-income renters.

With savings and credit tapped out, TCA households in particular have no buffer to keep them from homelessness when small financial setbacks inevitably happen.

**We urge you to move favorable on Senate Bill 420.**



*Maryland Nonprofits' mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.*