



February 13, 2023

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for House Bill 965– Custodial Interrogation of Minors – Admissibility of Statements.

This bill will allow, for taxable years 2023 through 2032, a credit against the State income tax for taxpayers of single-family and multifamily residential rental properties who incur costs for certain mold remediation performed on the property and obtain a tax credit certificate from the Department of Housing and Community Development; and requiring the Comptroller and the Department jointly to report, on or before October 1, 2024, and each year thereafter, certain information on the certifications.

It is widely recognized that housing instability can have a significant negative impact on a person’s physical and mental well-being. Housing instability comes in many forms including moving frequently, overcrowding, spending the majority of income on housing (cost-burdened households), or living in substandard or poorly maintained homes. In the United States, Black and Hispanic people are almost twice as likely as White households to be cost-burdened. In Maryland, more than 45% of severely cost-burdened renters describe themselves as Black. This bill helps to address a gap in our housing policy by creating standards for mold assessment and remediation. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 965.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland