



**HB428--Community Schools - Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program
and Fund – Establishment**

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**Hearing before the House Appropriation Committee
February 6, 2024**

Position: FAVORABLE

Founded in 2010, the Renters Alliance is the first and only regional nonprofit dedicated exclusively to renter outreach, education, organizing and advocacy.

We thank Delegate Vaughn Stewart for his leadership and vision on this issue.

Maryland remains the nation's number one eviction filing state, impacting tens of thousands of working families, seniors, people on fixed, low-income renters and children. It's time to recognize, as this bill does, that the impact of housing instability and eviction have a direct impact on student academic performance and well-being. Creating this modest fund to support more than 350 community schools statewide is an import first step in addressing the growing problem of student mobility due to housing instability.

We understand that the state is facing budget challenges. We ask that each legislator consider this question: We know that this bill will cost the state \$10 million in initial funding. But what are the costs, financial, social and in lost property for *failing* to fund this resource?

Students who do not achieve academically are prone to lost productivity, increased crime rates, mental and physical harm that cost all of us.

We urge a favorable report.

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