



March 26, 2024

To the Honorable Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and the esteemed members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony before the Budget and Taxation Committee in support of HB66. At Interfaith Works (IW), our programs and services help our neighbors in need access vital services and create a pathway to greater stability. IW programs include emergency financial assistance, distribution of free food and clothing, job placement services, and a complete continuum of housing – including four emergency shelters and seven supportive housing programs. Through these programs, we serve 35,000 Montgomery County residents each year.

HB66, as proposed, aims to alleviate the burden of property tax for properties owned by certain nonprofit organizations. IW owns three homes where we operate supportive housing programs. These properties have been instrumental in providing stable living conditions for vulnerable individuals who were previously experiencing homelessness. Through tailored support from our dedicated case managers, residents' access essential services that enable them to find a pathway to greater stability.

However, offering these services comes at a significant cost. HB66 would relieve some pressure for nonprofits like IW by helping to defray the expenses associated with property taxes. By reducing the financial strain, this legislation enables us to allocate more resources towards delivering effective case management and supportive services. Ultimately, this legislation helps us continue our invaluable work towards ending homelessness and alleviating poverty in Montgomery County.

Thank you for considering our perspective as you proceed with this Hearing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Courtney Hall', is positioned above the typed name.

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