



BILL NO: House Bill 7
TITLE: Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund -
Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation
HEARING DATE: January 30, 2024
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 7.**

An inability to access safe and affordable housing is often an insurmountable barrier for a victim attempting to leave a domestic violence situation. With more than a third of domestic violence victims experiencing homelessness after leaving their abuser, safe and affordable housing is paramount for victims and survivors of domestic violence. Victims often remain in abusive relationships and children are exposed to ongoing violence because they have nowhere safe to go and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. Furthermore, financial abuse occurs in an estimated 94-99% of domestic violence cases causing economic instability, lack of financial independence, and poor credit, all additional barriers to escaping an abusive relationship and accessing housing.

HB 7 creates a fund to support the development of affordable housing opportunities in Maryland. The bill establishes the Housing Innovation Pilot Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide funds for certain mixed-income, cross-subsidized housing. HB 7 also establishes the Housing Innovation Fund to provide low- or no-interest loans to local housing authorities through the Housing Innovation Pilot Program. Additional affordable housing opportunities in Maryland are critical for victims of domestic violence and HB 7 would support the development of affordable housing.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 7.**

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