



Date: Jan. 30, 2023

To: The Honorable Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Committee Members

Position: Support – House Bill 7 - Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund - Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)

Dear Chair, Korman,

On behalf of LifeBridge Health, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB-7. LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County; Grace Medical Center (formerly Bon Secours Hospital), a freestanding medical facility in West Baltimore; and Center for Hope a center of excellence focused on provided hope and services for trauma survivors in Baltimore City.

Our communities identify housing as one of the top three most important problems affecting the health of the community, (2023 Grace Medical Center and Sinai Hospital Community Health Needs Assessments). Individual decisions to stay at home are complicated by housing conditions within their communities, especially within historically underserved, predominately African American, low-income neighborhoods found in LifeBridge's Service Area.

Ensuring that all families live in affordable, stable homes will improve community health outcomes, thereby reducing health care and education costs. Building a firm foundation for stable homes begins with policies that provide opportunities for families to afford to rent or buy decent homes necessary for good health. Given the health, educational, and cost implications of families living in unstable homes, there is an urgent need to increase supply of affordable homes and help families meet rent demands and reduce costs.

HB7 would help local housing authorities increase the production of affordable housing units by providing loans to local housing authorities for mixed-income, cross-subsidized housing and increase the volume of housing production. Housing is one of the best-researched social determinants of health and addressing housing insecurity has been found to improve health outcomes and decrease health care costs.

For these reasons, we request a ***favorable*** report on HB7

For more information, please contact:

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CARE BRAVELY