



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0007

**Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund –
Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)
Environment and Transportation Committee**

FAVORABLE

TO: Delegate Stewart and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Heather East, Chase Home, Inc. and Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: January 26, 2024

The Chase Home, Inc. and Episcopal Church supports House Bill 0007 establishing the Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024 in the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide funding for the development of mixed-income housing with loans to local housing authorities who would be required to award housing projects with a dollar-for-dollar match.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 0007 to establish the Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024.

The Chase Home, Inc. is pleased to offer a favorable testimony in strong support of the HB 0007. As a member of the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition and Anne Arundel Affordable Housing Coalition and host to the inaugural Anne Arundel County Affordable Housing Symposium where stakeholders in housing and community development gathered together to better understand affordable housing issues, the Chase Home advocates for better affordable housing legislation and programs that fund innovative affordable housing projects. One of our symposium speakers, Anne Arundel County Housing Commissioner Clifton Martin, provided some informative and thought-provoking information on the challenges of funding housing project in Anne Arundel County. This pilot program would provide the necessary loans to housing authorities enabling them to fund innovative housing projects with a dollar-for-dollar match and offering developers incentives to correct the shortage in affordable housing.

For the reasons noted above, we urge a FAVORABLE report on HB 0007.