

**TESTIMONY OF SANDI McFADDEN  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR FOR THE GOVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN  
BALTIMORE, MD  
SUPPORTING HB 1374  
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 6, 2024**

Delegate Korman, Delegate Boyce, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Sandi McFadden and I support HB1374. I am the Community School Coordinator for the Govans Elementary School in Baltimore where I serve as a liaison between the school, the neighborhood, the community, and the City. A foundational principle of Community Schools is that there must be connection and coordination among the community elements that effect a child's welfare.

I am concerned that environmental policy in Maryland has become a stand-alone entity that is disconnected from its mission to protect the environment for the health and well-being of Marylanders.

Our community has worked with city and state authorities to bring investment for revitalization, public safety, greening, and commercial activity into neighborhoods that have suffered from redlining and disinvestment. These efforts have led to a 39% decrease in vacant homes, two new 21st Century Schools, and a Healthy Neighborhood designation.

Current environmental regulations will allow a crematory incinerator to be placed in the heart of our neighborhood – less than 200 feet from our homes - prioritizing the interest of a single business owner over 2 decades of coordinated effort to restore our community. These crematories have none of the emission controls or pollution monitors that MDE requires on larger incinerators. They will create a health burden as well as a disincentive to prospective home owners or businesses. No one wants an incinerator in their backyard.

Creating a 1,000 foot buffer for crematories is a no cost, common sense solution. It permits crematory businesses to exist, protects the health of the community, and preserves the hard-earned revitalization of our neighborhoods.