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BILL NO.: **HB 534**

TITLE: Community Development Administration – Live Near Your School Program

SPONSOR: Delegate Ruff

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 16, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 534 – Community Development Administration – Live Near Your School Program – Funding and Extension, which extends the sunset provision on the Live Near Your School Program to 2030 and continues to fund the program during that period. This program can provide financial support to current students and recent graduates for homebuying close to the school that they currently attend or have graduated from.

Baltimore County supports initiatives that increase the accessibility and affordability of homeownership and appreciates the continued potential demonstrated by this program. The communities surrounding Towson University, Goucher College, the University of Maryland – Baltimore County, Stevenson University, and the County’s CCBC campuses continue to grow. These educational institutions act as anchors and critical leaders in that growth. This initiative will bolster the investments and partnerships developed around the sustainability, livability, and vibrancy of Baltimore County’s neighborhoods.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 534. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.