



Thursday, February 15, 2024

Re: In Support of HB 599 Housing and Community Development Financing Act

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

On behalf of Anne Arundel Community Action Agency, I urge you to support HB 599, Housing and Community Development Financing Act.

The Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency has been county's designated anti-poverty agency since 1965, with its mission "to assist people living in poverty working to achieve self-sufficiency and economic mobility by collaborating with community partners." Agency programs are a demonstrated pipeline to increase optimal outcomes across several well-being domains.

Anne Arundel Community Action Agency supports HB 599 as we are seeing firsthand the urgent housing needs of low-income individuals and families in Anne Arundel County where poverty significantly undermines their economic mobility. This bill would allow Maryland to enhance its long-term financial investment in low-income communities through more dedicated staff and the award of competitive financial resources.

If there is any additional information that I can provide as you consider this bill, I would be happy to help. You can contact me at (410) 626-1900 ext. 1017 or kholder@aaccaa.org.

Sincerely,

Kia Holder, Deputy Program Integrationist
92 W Washington Street
Annapolis, MD 21401