



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**SB 57: Evidence - Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance - Fair Housing Testing**

**January 30, 2024**

**Letter of Information**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. Our vision is that people with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together.

The Council advocates for policies, practices, and funding that support more housing options that are affordable and accessible to people with disabilities. We also advocate for housing that allows people with and without developmental disabilities to live in the community together. We understand the intention of this bill aligns with our values of fair and inclusive housing for people with disabilities.

People with disabilities are a protected class under the federal and state housing and accommodation laws. However, fair housing complaints are disproportionately filed by people with disabilities. In 2019, 45% of housing complaints report to HUD were disability-based. The levels of complaints indicate fair housing is still not available for too many people with disabilities. More work needs to be done to promote inclusive housing in Maryland, like wider testing of fair housing in Maryland.

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