



March 4, 2025

Brian Feldman  
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB430/HB503 – Housing for Jobs Act – Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region and Chesapeake Neighbors, we write in support of **SB430/HB503 – *Housing for Jobs Act***.

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region empowers people with disabilities to live the lives they choose by providing services, advocating for change, and working to remove barriers to community access. Our goal is to create inclusive communities where everyone is welcome and has access to the resources they need. One way we foster inclusivity is through our subsidiary, Chesapeake Neighbors, which provides beautiful, safe, and accessible affordable rental housing for tenants ranging from low-income to market-rate renters.

During the 2024 legislative session, the state enacted the Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024 (HEAA), a comprehensive housing package proposed by the Governor to reduce barriers to affordable and attainable housing. The enactment of HEAA marks a significant step toward these goals by incentivizing increased density, expanding affordable housing options, and preserving the ability of county and local governments to strengthen existing zoning ordinances to enhance housing affordability and attainability.

The Housing for Jobs Act builds on the momentum of HEAA and further demonstrates the administration's commitment to increasing affordable housing options in the state. SB430/HB503 would establish a ratio system of available jobs to available housing in different regions to address current housing infrastructure gaps. This legislation would also require local jurisdictions to expedite housing development applications and establish guidelines for providing reasons for denial. Housing development applications and permitting processes continue to be barriers to expanding housing opportunities, and SB430/HB503 directly addresses these concerns.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB430/HB503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathon Rondeau', written in a cursive style.

Jonathon Rondeau  
President & CEO