

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Testimony on: SB 978 - CHERISH Our Communities Act
Submitting: Adriana Gonzalez Mendez
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 25, 2025

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Adriana Gonzalez Mendez, and I have been a proud resident of Prince George's District 25 County for the past 20 years. I am a mother of four, and my youngest child suffers from asthma. I am writing to you today in full support of SB978, the CHERISH Our Communities Act, because I have seen firsthand how pollution impacts the health of our children and families.

My son's struggle with asthma has been heartbreaking, and I know I am not alone. My two nephews also suffer from asthma, and there was a time when they spent more days in the hospital than at home. Families like mine bear the burden of poor air quality, and it is our children—especially those in vulnerable communities—who pay the highest price.

SB978 is very important because it will help protect the communities most impacted by pollution, ensuring that families like mine no longer have to live in fear of the air we breathe. I urge the committee to support this bill and take a stand for the health and well-being of Maryland's children and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adriana Gonzalez Mendez