

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

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Katie Bautista, and I am a student at Hampstead Hill Academy. I live in Baltimore City, in District 41. I am writing today to express my support for SB 978 – the CHERISH Our Communities Act because this bill is crucial for protecting the health of families like mine.

I have suffered from asthma since birth, a condition that is unfortunately common in Latino communities. Many of us live in neighborhoods across Maryland that face serious health risks from multiple sources of pollution. Yet, these same communities often receive the least protections and resources to address air pollution and its harmful effects.

I also want to thank Senator Attar for meeting with us on February 17 and remind her of the commitment she made to support this important bill. This issue is personal to her as well, and I urge the rest of the Committee to stand with us and vote in favor of SB 978.

Sincerely,

Katie Bautista