

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 250
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 489, Maryland Department of Labor – Study on Building Code Requirements for
Single-Staircase Buildings — Support**

Carrie Kisicki, Montgomery County Advocacy Manager

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Carrie Kisicki, and I am the Montgomery County Advocacy Manager for the Coalition for Smarter Growth. We advocate for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the metro D.C. region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

We ask for your support of HB 489. Single-staircase buildings offer a potential solution to several of the housing challenges Maryland faces. Modern fire safety requirements and building materials make it possible to build single-staircase buildings safely, and this study will help us update our state's housing policies to reflect these advances.¹

Single-staircase buildings unlock the potential of small or irregularly-sized lots for multi-family housing production. Because these kinds of lots are often infill lots located in and near downtowns, this would help create more housing opportunities near jobs and amenities.

Single-staircase buildings can also help provide more homes for families. The flexibility of the single-staircase layout allows for larger, family-sized multi-bedroom units to be built even in buildings on smaller or irregular lots.²

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carrie Kisicki
Montgomery County Advocacy Manager

¹ Niskanen Center, "[Building code reform moves forward in Virginia](#)"

² Virginia Conservation Network, "[New Laws: Single Staircases Encourage Sustainable Housing](#)"