

House Environment & Transportation Committee
February 28, 2025

House Bill 503
Housing For Jobs Act

Support

The Association of Community Services (ACS) of Howard County, a 501c3 nonprofit, is a membership organization of seventy-seven nonprofit agencies in our community. Our members provide critical services ranging from housing to food assistance, legal services, mentoring, transportation, elder care, and more.

ACS supports House Bill 503, which will spur much needed home building for all Marylanders. The lack of affordable housing, driven by insufficient supply, has long been an issue in Howard County. According to the MD Department of Housing and Community Development, Howard County needs 11,600 new housing units to address the housing gap in our region!

The lack of affordable housing is significantly contributing to the challenge nonprofits are struggling with to recruit and retain sufficient workers to provide the essential services our community relies upon. Potential workers face the choice of high housing costs here, or the cost (in time and money) of a long commute from a more affordable county. Many decide against either option, and look for jobs closer to where they can live affordably. A substantial increase of new housing units will help drive down rental and homeownership costs, making it easier for workers to afford to live in Howard County.

Howard County depends on nonprofits to deliver a wide range of essential services. Please support this bill to help nonprofits hire the workers they need to do so.

ACS strongly urges a favorable report on HB503.

Submitted by,

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