



February 18, 2025

Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Organizational Support for HB 896/SB 677 – Human Relations – Discrimination in Housing – Income-Based Housing Subsidies.

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Maryland Inclusive Housing, we are writing to express our strong support for HB 996/SB 677 which seeks to prevent discrimination in housing based on income-based housing subsidies. At Maryland Inclusive Housing, we are dedicated to increasing affordable and accessible housing opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the state. We work directly with individuals, families, service providers and other organizations to help overcome barriers that prevent individuals from accessing housing of their choosing. [REDACTED]

Unfortunately, there have been a number of instances where the individuals we serve have been turned away due to poor credit history or other discriminatory practices including Source of Income Discrimination. Many marginalized communities such as individuals with disabilities have historically faced economic challenges as their income is typically fixed and have fewer opportunities to build credit. This bill will directly address challenges like these to ensure that income-based rental assistance is valid and will hold discrimination practices from landlords accountable.

We hope that you will consider passing this bill to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not overlooked when it comes to accessing fair, stable and inclusive housing opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Wiens".

Tim Wiens, Executive Director