

Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill HB 226 (SB 22)

**Department of Disabilities -Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations-
Establishment**

Appropriations Committee Hearing February 3, 2026

Submitted on January 30 ,2026

To Chair Barnes Vice -Chair Kaiser, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 226 on behalf of the Chimes organization as a volunteer Board member of Chimes International and the Chimes Maryland Advisory Council.**

Chimes mission is to foster a compassionate and inclusive community where individuals of differing abilities and behavioral health needs are supported and thrive. Chimes enables futures by providing holistic support, advocacy, and innovative solutions that enhance independence, well -being and a sense of belonging.

Chimes Maryland as the largest not-for profit provider of community services in the state supports children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, and other co-occurring conditions throughout the Baltimore metropolitan region. Committed to helping each individual reach their fullest potential, Chimes offers a diverse array of services tailored to every stage of life.

HB 226's inclusion of the Affordable and Accessible Housing Programs under the Department of Disabilities is an important first step in addressing this issue. The collaborative effort between an affiliated foundation established for this purpose to solicit and receive contributions from business, governmental entities, nonprofit organization, and individuals interested in the promotion of programs and units administered or by the Department provides an innovative supplemental funding mechanism.

HB 226 does an excellent job of outlining the expectations, responsibilities and financial accountability of the affiliate foundation, the Department and the Attorney General while clearly defining that “ **Contributions accepted by the Department from an affiliated foundations under this section are supplemental to and are not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated in the annual budget or capital budget bill for the Department.**”

Thank you for your consideration and **the Chimes urges a favorable report from this committee for HB 226.**

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