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DATE: March 25, 2026
BILL NO.: Senate Bill 22
TITLE: Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations - Establishment
COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee

Letter of Support

Description of Bill:

Senate Bill 22 would authorize the Maryland Department of Disabilities to establish one or more independent, non-governmental foundations to support their programs. One of their programs impacted by this bill is their Affordable Apartments Program.

Background and Analysis:

The Department of Disabilities' Affordable Apartments Program sought to house non-elderly, disabled persons at 10-30 percent of the Area's Gross Median Income. Capital grants were available to owners as an incentive to designate units for occupancy at affordable rents specifically for low-income persons with disabilities. However, as the private sponsorship of the program ended, the program was not able to expand beyond its current capacity.

The establishment of nonprofits to support the Department of Disabilities' programs, like the Affordable Apartments Program, is essential to providing the necessary funding for housing for people with disabilities in the State. Oftentimes, the cost of construction to have a project meet accessibility standards is too expensive for developers. Programs like this give developers the incentive, through the capital grants, to build the types of housing that Marylanders need.

With the passage of this legislation, valuable programs like the Affordable Apartments Program can continue to expand to meet the needs of the State by offering more affordable units to Maryland residents who live with a disability.

DHCD Position

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 22.

