

Testimony Supporting SB0274
Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination - Regulations and Discriminatory Effect

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Chair, Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Vice Chair Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, and esteemed members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing to ask you to vote in support of Senate Bill 274. It enshrines fair housing protections for Marylanders and gives tools for them to obtain justice when housing practices have discriminatory effects. Discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, or ethnicity is inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution and equal protection principles.

Everyone deserves fair housing. LGBTQIA+ individuals, especially transgender and nonbinary people, face disproportionate rates of housing instability, eviction, and homelessness. Maryland should do what it can through legislation to ensure marginalized communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals and people of color, are able to secure housing on a nondiscriminatory basis.

For these reasons, I urge your favorable report on SB0274 as amended.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melinda Littell
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