

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Dear Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am submitting testimony as a member of Sanctuary Maryland. I am testifying in **support of HB1073: Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases - Prospective Tenant Criminal History Records Check (Maryland Fair Chance Housing Act)**.

After completing their sentences and thus paying their debt to society, previously incarcerated individuals often struggle to find housing because of their criminal records. This makes them vulnerable to becoming unhoused or re-offending out of desperation due to their inability to meet the basic human need for shelter.

HB1073 would prohibit a landlord from requiring or requesting that prospective tenants provide information relating to criminal history, and would prohibit a landlord from considering certain information when evaluating prospective tenants. This bill would therefore reduce the barriers previously incarcerated people face in gaining housing and getting their lives back on track. This bill would therefore be instrumental in supporting previously incarcerated people in successfully reintegrating into society and becoming contributing members of their communities, making everyone safer.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **support HB1073: Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases - Prospective Tenant Criminal History Records Check (Maryland Fair Chance Housing Act)**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katherine Blaha
Baltimore, MD 21209